

019

With deepest sympathy
Mr & Mrs. Otto F. Monahan

Lakeville,
Connecticut

With very deep sympathy, and
affectionate thoughts of you.

Miss Helen Marquand McWilliams

39 South Portland Avenue

Deep & Sincere sympathy
in this distressing and har-
rowing sorrow

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Butler Mahony

May Munnah Mahony

Chatchcote
Scarborough-on-Hudson

Heartfelt sympathy

519

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Barmore Maclay

Sixteen East Eighty-fourth Street

Oct. 15th

9/27/34

Dear Mrs. Speer:

It seems quite
incredible that what I
read in the paper of
the accident at
Northfield can possibly
concern your family!
But it reads as if it
did. What a very
strange & sad thing.

all my memory

of you - of your whole
household - makes me
sure that even this
must already have
carried with it to you
arrows of light as well
as darkness. You
know that you have
the loss of all of us in
the year - "around
the world".

Sincerely

Margaret K. Walther

apt D7, Park Square apt 5
Atlantic City.

Not here

ATLANTIC CITY
SEP 27
7 PM
1934
N. J.



NOT AT ADDRESS GIVEN
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

RECEIVED
REGISTERED
MAIL

Mrs. Robert Speer
No. 620 Lexington Ave
New York City
N.Y.

Annex
Grand Central

Personal

Mr. H. H. [unclear]

or

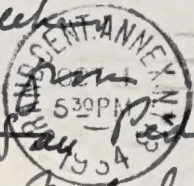
1860

San Francisco

Calif

Berkeley

Calif



57

3504 Baring St
Philadelphia.

My dear Dr. Spier

I have read
your tragic irreparable
loss. What shall I say to
you? Just now I am
trying so hard to find
some light in the
deep darkness of the
apparent uncalled
for death of my own
boy whose presence
on earth was so
worth while to everyone.

to us, - and personal im-
mortality for them - a
very real thing through
Jesus Christ. Believe me
to be in the fellowship of
your suffering

Your sincere friend
Reph Blumackie

Monday

September 17, 1934

These are hours which
put great shame on
the faith and hopes
we have preached.

Mrs. Mackie and I
know something of the
measure of your suf-
fering - our hearts go
out to you and yours.
Unusual to us is our
cross - but oh so
common to many
of our fellow men. May
our boys be still living
conscientious presences of

1842

Dear Mrs. Seers:-

I realize how futile my words, in a sorrow such as yours, and yet when one's heart is heavy & all one's thoughts are with you, I could not but write and tell you.

My love goes out to you, in the tragedy which has come into your life - I know what the passing of you means, of a beautiful soul is, & I feel that my sympathy

is understanding sympathy. If
anyhow, you please, I
will perhaps be comforted
by the love of Friends here,
& that you & Dr. T. have
to a great degree.

I am coming on to see you
some day, when I wish
I had it right to interrupt
your many lectures, meanwhile
I can & do, pray for you both,
that Strength may be given
you to see us sooner.

Yours affectionately
Wm L. Miller

Sept 16th

9/22.

Sunday night.

Dear Mr. Speer

in the quiet
evening I have had for
weeks - to come to my desk
and in a calm, quiet
tone come to those who
have been very much in
my thoughts and just
try to tell them how
deeply sorry we are that
so much of sadness and
trouble has come into their
lives. Of course Mr. Mitchell
and I were believed - I

might not know Mr. Ellis's
letter. but the few times he was
a part of our family at Frances
settling in with Mr. Spear endeared
themselves to us. but we shall
always cherish the memory. I do
want to thank you, Mrs. Spear, for
your constant thoughtfulness for Frances
and Tom. You do so much for their
happiness and comfort. The children
feel you are a real mother to them.
Isn't it lovely for them to be looking
forward to the baby's coming in the
spring? Frances is feeling so well
and is very happy. I just love the

and we very happy. I just told -

Love of Mr. Speer's death
and because of Frances
and Tom's affection for
him and for your family
it seemed - I come very
near into my own life.
Frances has told me
how she has very hard
you and all the members
of your family have been - and
I know each day you have
found strength and comfort
in our heavenly Father's love
and had a peace - that
so many can not under-
stand. You and Mr. Speer
are a blessing to so many
of your friends. I wish we

will be to send.

Mr. Mitchell joins me in
affectionate sympathy for you
and Mr. Spier.

Thos. C. M. Mitchell

140 North Broadway
New York, New York.

John A. Mackay

Sept. 17, 1934

156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

the love and sympathy
our hearts contain. We
stand the same to Mrs
Speer and the stricken
widow and her little
ones and to your own
two daughters and
Billy.

Our God's riches in
glory in Christ-Jesus may
all your needs be supplied
Yours ever affectionately
John A. Mackay

Ans.

Q.S.S.

Dr. H. H. ... friend at college of Dr. Speer ...
I trusted after ...
Ch. X (11)

156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

Ch. X (11)
Ch. X (11)

SEPT 17, 1934.

My dear Dr. Speer,

I was at home
on Saturday morning when
I learned by a telephone
call of the awful tragedy.
I had not yet seen the
morning paper & hastened
to get it. At the station I
sent you a telegram to
L. K. ...

Mrs. Mackay and I
and the children have

been simply overwhelmed.
Exclamations no words
came easiest - to our lips,
and it was easier to
speak to God about it
than to each other. We
have been holding up
Mrs Spier & you before
the throne of grace
at the morning service ^{yesterday}
Dr Brank preached on
Job as I have never
heard him preach before.
It was clear he had you

struck hearts in mind.
Not a great wind from
the wilderness but a
swift. shal - from the forest -
did it. But the worth -
field tragedy was deeper,
for the fatal blast - burst
not into the sound of
revelry but into the
silence of meditation.
Where should one be safer
from Satan once his eni-
saves than in a study -
chair in peaceful, hallowed
Northfield?

And there is no solution

& this enigma of Providence
but there is an answer to
the unspeakable need
it creates: "My grace is
sufficient for you".

Only one did I have
the pleasure of meeting Elliott
but I had followed his
career with growing interest,
and felt that under his
leadership Morris House
School was becoming one
of the great schools of the
country.

Mrs Mackay, our children
and I send you all

ack

Very for a Ministry of Education, Dept. of the Interior
of the United States, Washington, D.C.

51 High Street,

Summit,

N. J.

Sept. 19. 1934.

111 D.

114 XV

copy 1/10

My dear Mrs. Speer,

I have hesitated to write during these first days of your great sorrow, for it seemed like seeking to touch the mountain up to whose holy heights God had called you apart to suffer with Himself. But I would just like you and Dr. Speer to know how deeply

commit you upon every
remembrance of you.

affectionately yours

in deepest sympathy

Jane L. Mackay.

our hearts are moved as we think of your great and sudden loss and how much we share your sorrow.

We know that mere human words at such a time are hard to speak and ^{often} futile ~~off~~, and so we are earnestly asking the Lord to speak His words of love, peace and consolation to your aching hearts. It is God alone who can "wipe away all tears" To Him we

ack. Oct 10.
1895.

43 Fifth Avenue,

New York.

My dear Mrs. Spear

I have been thinking very often of you during these last few weeks, yet I hesitated to write home. My few words could mean only just one more letter, yet I do wish you to know of my very great sympathy and affection for

Thank you and Dr. Spicer

Very sincerely,

Helen S. Wadsworth

October 6th 1934

ack.

Dear Mrs. Spicer.

We were shocked and distressed beyond measure at the tragedy and sorrow which have come to you and Dr. Spicer and your family. I know that I can say very little to comfort you, but I do trust you to know that I am thinking of you with very tender love and sympathy. With the deepest sympathy and affection

Always faithfully yours

Antoinette D. Myers

Wilton.

Connecticut

September 17th

Florence Mc ~~Adams~~ ~~Adams~~

34 Cherry St.

Holyoke

Mass

M

My

My dear Mr Spur:

To-day I attended
the memorial service for
your son. It was a
beautiful service and, one,
those present, will not soon
forget.

I had met Dr Spur only
once. But heard him last
year at the graduation ex-
ercises. My son, being in

great work at Mt Hermon. A
God-given man sent to this fine
School to make of it, a school
second to none. And to demon-
strate that the past and present
could meet on the road to progress
of Christ led the way.

And then — the tragedy, After
the first great shock I found
myself suspended in mid air
with nothing to cling to. Unable
to pray or believe any of the
things that had been my life

Why if God knows and hears
our prayers, should he allow so

the graduation class, and from him I learned during the year the devotion of the 'boys' to a Headmaster, who was, master and boy at the same time.

While you read the tributes from the people who knew him well I realized, nothing you said sounded new or strange, for all those thoughts had been mine also.

I had felt, here was a man born and educated, for the

Terrible a thing to happen, and
if he doesn't know "Why pray
at all?"

Somehow I felt, after
hearing you to-day, you have
found solace in your faith
while mine is completely
disrupted.

I would be most grateful.
Mr. Spier if you could answer
this letter and explain how you
have consoled yourself after this
irreparable loss.

Sincerely
Florence M. Auslan

Nov. 11, 1934.

ackn.

September twenty-first.

Dear Mrs. Spier —

How I wish I could adequately tell you how deeply sorry I am for all of you in this terrible experience that has come to you. Mere words seem so utterly inadequate, but I am sure you know how I am feeling, for you know that I love you and care very very much!

help, you! If there is anything you will let
me know, ~~writ~~ you! I'd be so glad if you
would!

Our thoughts and our love and
prayers are ~~with~~ love & yours, dear Mrs Speer,
and Jane, as always

Devotedly yours

Margaret P. Head.

You have been surrounded by
the devotion and concern of your
great circle of friends and, oh,
I hope that the knowledge of that
encircling love has been a help to
you ^{just} as I am confident your faith
and trust in Our Heavenly Father
has upheld you. That He may
give you strength and courage is
my prayer for you.

Dear Mrs Speer, I would so
love to be able to do something to

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
 NM = Night Message
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 LC = Deferred Cable
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Received at

GR72 36 DL=POTTSTOWN PE N SEP 15 1112A

MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

M THERMON MASS=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

MY DEEPEST LOVE AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AND ROB THROUGH
 THESE DARK HOURS OF MYSTERIOUS TRAGEDY DIVINE LOVE AND POWER
 WILL SUSTAIN YOU BOTH AND HOLLY AND WILL ENABLE YOU TO SEE
 LIGHT IN DARKNESS=

MARION MEIGS.

1218P.

Letter sent Oct. 12/11

Written in the summer of 1888? for Alexandria
has never been used. The only sermon I ever wrote.

R/S

I Corinthians II, 2

"For I determined not to know anything
among you, save Jesus Christ and him
crucified."

Written in the summer of 1888? for Alexandria
has been used. The only sermon I ever wrote.

R/S

I Corinthians II, 2

"For I determined not to know anything
among you, save Jesus Christ and him
crucified."

Paul of Tarsus was a clear lighted, straight thinking, ambitious man. He had measured his own powers, he knew the inevitable consequences of a general acceptance of the faith which was called Christian faith at Antioch, and relying in his mental and moral powers to set himself against the simple and silly superstitions of the new sect. He was no half-witted man. He was out and out for his convictions. The wisdom of men was a great thing in his eyes and as a true man he sought and exacted the object of his best desire. Paul the apostle of Jesus Christ, had the same clear sight, the same straight thought, the same ambition on which had marked Saul, the enemy of Jesus, but the light and the thought were the vision and

the inspiration of the Spirit of God, and the ambition
or was the burning purpose of which he wrote to
the church at Philippi "this one thing I do forget-
ting those things which are behind, and reaching
forth unto those things which are before, I
press toward the mark for the prize of the
high calling of God in Christ Jesus

It was in this spirit that he wrote to the
Christians at Corinth the letter from which the
words of our thoughts are taken, "I determined
to know nothing among you, save Jesus Christ
and him crucified." Paul glories in it. He
smiles over the old Paul. We can imagine him
as he writes these words rising up with a
smile of triumph as he looks down on his
old Paul whom he had his power on

the road to Damascus "Oh, Saul Saul, he says,
"you could never have written these words. These
are the very things you so much despised. The
wisdom of the words, the pride of intellect, the
exaltation of your own purposes, the false ser-
vice of the true God - these were yours, consi-
derately, perhaps, - but still yours. As for me,
I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live
and am determined to know him, him
alone, and him crucified." And in speaking
thus to his old sep, Paul would have spoken
as well to the spirit which reigned at Corinth
and which surrounded with great danger
and temptations the little band of Christians
gathered there. It does not need to be said
that the city is on the isthmus connecting the

the two parts of the Jewish peninsula: that from its position it became one of the great marts of the ancient world: that it was accordingly called out as the luxury and wealth which in so many ancient cities and in so many modern hearts had shut out the light of the truth made known in "the simplicity which was in Christ". Out as its riches, licentiousness and dissipation, Corinth was distinguished for great mental refinement and wide learning so that it was familiarly known as the "eye of Greece". But of all this probably from the lower classes were won those few souls who made up the new Christian community. As compared with those above them they must have seemed indeed the weak, the foolish, the despised things.

They must at times have felt the lowliness of their position and have envied somewhat the abundance of wealth and learning about them. In a moment such as this Paul's triumphant words came like a breath from the mountains: "The foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called; but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world, to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea and things that are not to bring to naught the power of the law."

act. Then appealing to his own example that
he had been content among them to know one
thing only - Jesus Christ, and him thus rejected
and crucified, he wreathes them to ground their
faith on this one immovable rock - the ex-
clusive knowledge of the crucified Christ.

With a thousand fold emphasis this appeal
rings out to us today. The world has turned
Catholican & seeks the realization of its ideal
in every place save one - on its knees at the
foot of the cross. Men seek to know every thing
save this one permanent and really valuable
knowledge - Jesus Christ and him crucified. Even
in this quiet place, away from the hurry and
rush of the great surging world in to guide
on this Sabbath - hush, hush of God and his children.

his spirit, men sit and ponder the great matters and
the little matters of their lives and pause to
know Jesus - Christ the only thing in this world of
ours worth the knowing. To this knowledge of Jesus
- our present duty, the need of the world today
the cry of our own lives, the great want of
humanity - let our thoughts turn today. And
while we teach together and to stand close
by the heart - gate, knowing, let him in and
know him him only him crucified!

First, then, the knowledge of Jesus of which Paul
here speaks, lead us to our true position and
attitude toward God. It is so hard for us
to get things in their proper setting, so hard for
us to attach to each the true importance be-
longing to it - no man, no use. We know

interest are so near and real that they often shut
out from our view greater realities lying beyond.
A small tripe which wees us often cause us
to lose sight of a burden of sorrow borne
by some one else whom we might cheer or
whose load we might lighten. Some small pleas-
ure just catches our grasp but we do not
reflect some small act of kindness which
would lighten the way of some other less strong
than we. When we see after the ends of day we
are pretty sure to cross the level precepts of
Christ and in some way or other to tread
upon the fatherless and the poor. And all this
is not pure religion and unadorned before the fa-
ther. And the reason of it all is that we are
thinking of other things than Christ. We have not

They must at times have felt the lowliness of their position and have envied somewhat the abundance of wealth and learning about them. In a moment such as this Paul's triumphant words came like a breath from the mountains "The foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called; but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea and things that are not, to bring to nought things that

and then appealing to his own example that
he had been content among them to know one
thing only - Jesus Christ, and him thus rejected
and crucified, he wreathed them to ground their
faith on this one immovable rock - the ex-
clusive knowledge of the crucified Christ.

With a thousand good emphases this appeal
rings out to us today. The word has turned
Corinthian. It seeks the realization of its ideal
in every place save one - on its knees at the
foot of the cross. Men seek to know every thing
save the one permanent and really valuable
knowledge - Jesus Christ and him crucified. Even
in this quiet place, away from the hurry and
rush of the great surging world, in the midst
of this Sabbath - hush, born of God and breathing

found our true relationship. We must know Christ first,
feel him first, keep and serve and follow him
and him alone, not only first but always

But, further, in the view we take of life, in the
part we play in the great tragedy of thought
and action which goes on incessantly, uncon-
sciously about us, we must know Christ
alone and crucified. We are becoming actors
moving we can not keep it we go in spite of
ourselves it is to better if instead of drifting
we know Christ Jesus and go in his way.
We were sometimes darkness but now we are
light in the hand. Let us walk as children
of light.

In the second place you will notice the immense
value of knowing Jesus Christ. The

acquaintanceship Paul had formed which was so in-
timate that in comparison with it he could say
he had no other acquaintanceships. He might not
have been so surprised if John had said this; for
he had rested his head on Jesus' bosom and the
Lord loved him. It might have been natural for
him to have expressed such extravagant affection.
Or Peter, in some impulsive moment, might have
uttered these words, or Lazarus in gratitude for
life restored to Mary and Martha for joy that
the Master had called their brother back from
the grave. But this was Paul who had never seen
the Lord while he was on the earth, nor witnessed
his holy life and sufferings, and yet he was
determined to know nothing but Jesus. My
friends are too slow to guess better than Paul that

we can not take the Lord of Paradise as our closest
companion? How we boast of the great men we
know! How a sign of recognition from some
mighty one fills us with pleasure and pride!
With what joy we point out such an one to
others and exclaim "I know him. Did you
see him smile upon me?" But with the Lord of
the Everlasting Kingdom we have formed not even
such acquaintance when he passes by we do
not see and speak to our friends or to
those we meet with the hearty words, "The Lord
of Paradise is come. His father is the King of
glory. Come for I should like you to see
him. You will love him, for he loves you."
Much less have we taken him into such close
confidence than we other in comparison with

him as stranger with his previous learning, ⁹¹⁰⁷
his knowledge of what wealth had to offer, aware
that both wealth and position awaited the shepherd
teacher. Paul could not have made the choice he
did without knowing that the thing he chose
was of greater value than the sheep he threw
away. He had left the Jewish service but even
as a proposed follower of Christ he might, at
least if he had had our example, ^{have} given his
first attention to wisdom or work and after-
wards thought about Christ. Not so, however, -
with unerring wisdom Paul chose the one
essential thing - to know Christ in companionship
with that one who was filthy rags. Christ
was all and in all. What wait we for? Would
that that sheep and all arise from the dead and

Christ shall give thee light. Let us know him, the
light of his countenance, the glory of his face:

'Oh, for a closer walk with God,

A calm and heavenly frame,

A light to shine upon the road,

That leads me to the Lamb.'

Truly, it is only by knowing Christ Jesus that
we can ever be like him. Beloved, now as we
the sons of God and it doth not yet appear
what we shall be, but we know when he shall
appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see
him as he is. As now we bear the image of the
earth, so then we shall bear the image of the
heavenly. When he shall so we change our vile
body that it may be fashioned like unto his
glorious body. Then shall we see him as he is.

we see him for only then shall we know as we
are known, and we shall be satisfied when we
awake in his likeness. But God means us
even now to begin to be transformed into that
spiritual character which we shall have in its
fulness when we meet Jesus. It is not that we
are to copy the life of Christ detail by detail, nor
that we are to cut off our sin from our
poor weak lives at a time. This we learn to
be done but it is knowing Christ Jesus, his
life, his deeds, his thoughts his love having
in us the mind that was in him, standing
before him in all the fulness of his beauty, and
then returning with beaming face to the
others, not that we have been with Jesus,
the one knows that, but that we have found a

friends who would dearly love to be their pupils -
and then leading them up to him who will
speak to them as never man spoke - in this
way we will be changed. For we are with
unveiled face, reflecting as in a mirror the
character of Christ as changed into the same
image from one development of character to
another by the Spirit of the Lord until we come
to the measure of the fulness of the stature of a
man in Jesus Christ. But we can not reflect
a character which we do not know. But some
timid but willing voice asks, "how may we know
that which we can not see?" There is nothing we
may know so well as the invisible and the
unseen. The voice comes to us with such clear
and unmistakable emphasis as the inward voice

of conscience. But we may not see the lips which
utter it. No hands beckon us so clearly into the
unholy future as the hands of our earthly
ideals. The unseen world is tempered more to
us than the world lying open to us every
day. We may know no friend so well as we
may know Jesus. We may not become like
him unless we know him. Two years ago I
was told of a little Scotch girl whose char-
acter was being changed into conformity to the
image of Jesus Christ. No one knew the secret
of the change. Day proclaimed day and the church
life shows man and man clearly in the living
temple of his Spirit. At last on a bed of
sickness the little girl took a lachet from
her nurse and handed it to a friend, telling

her that within it was the least having hand
hated to learn. On a slip of paper the whole story
was written, "Whom having not seen, I love". He
knew him on whom the eyes of his earthly body had
never looked. Paul knew him what suffering
he had never seen. Him whom we have not seen
let us also know and love. In him though
now we see him not yet believing let us rejoice
with joy unspeakable and full of glory. And
our joy no man taketh from us.

Such knowledge of Jesus leads us to put
confidence in him. We are not all of trust those
we do not know unless some one touches
for them. And yet in the case of Jesus we
are not trust him even then. But if we
know him, oh then we are trust him and

just confidence in him. And here especially if the
news were more widely known, the world would
be better for it. The great evil of our time is
the lack of confidence which men feel in each
other and the fact that after this lack of con-
fidence is decreased. The cause of panics, of
ruined business enterprises, often of broken homes
is found here. If men knew Jesus they would
trust each other. It may be that here to say this
is how who have no confidence in each other,
such do not know Jesus Christ and him cruci-
fied. There may be those here who have no confi-
dence in Christ. The reason is the same. They have
never tried him 'Whose burden is the Lord's burden
is to.' 'How will he be in perfect peace whose
right is stayed on the. because he himself

thee." This trust, this confidence which comes from the knowledge of Jesus is perhaps the most precious thing we may have here apart from Jesus himself. We must be led through it to leave all things with God after we have done all we can, having first committed it all to God as his. "At the close of any action, we are not to indulge in any self reflective acts of any kind, whether of self congratulation or of self despair. Forget the things that are behind, the moment they are past, leaving them with God." With implicit faith in one whom we know we are to go on, steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in his work, forasmuch as we know that our labor is not in vain in him.

Abow all in personal interest to

it is only in knowing him that we can gain
the one jewel which it is possible for us to
carry out of this wretched world. "This is
eternal life that they might know thee the only true
God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." "This
is the record, that God hath given to us eternal
life and this life is in his son. He that hath
the son hath life and he that hath not the son
of God hath not life." Back one man we must
go and determine to know the Lord Jesus only
and him Crucified. We may not have eternal life
unless we know Christ and if we know him
now, we may have eternal life now, beginning
his growing and strengthening and widening,
till it meets the life of Christ in the eternal
world beyond. When we think of it solemnly it

kindest sympathy!

620

~~Mr.~~ William. Macalister

QJ.4A

30 Eastchester Rd. New Rochelle

seems impossible that any wise and honest man
should not know Jesus - but he invites not
only the wise and the honest but also the foolish
and thieves.

More than the initial step, made in
knowledge of Christ is the very essence of the go-
spel. It is not only the way of entrance
the door by which the sheep go in and out and
find pasture. Eternal life is not the only fruit
of Christ's acquaintance. It is no other view than
the door that gives us access to the branch of unbroken
peace. Only in the knowledge of him can the troubled
souls find that haven of rest toward which all
aspirations passionately yearningly advance.
Years ago a noble prince of England who had
incurred the enmity of authority was the

prison. She was allowed no companions. Hardly food
was cast into her every day but her heart was
at rest in the knowledge of him who broke the
bonds of the captives and sets the prisoners free.

When years had passed, one morning as his ac-
customed round the keeper found her lying
dead on the dungeon floor, no longer weary
and troubled but peaceful at rest. Her Bible
her only companion lay beneath her head open
and the troubled, tired, sorrow visited face rested
smilingly on the word of Jesus, "Come unto me
and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon
you and learn of me for I am meek and
lowly in heart and ye shall find rest unto
your souls." He is a young man like to whom

thus does not appeal as it does to those whose
experience has tested the meaning and the meaning
of life apart from Jesus. And yet what higher
thing can be set before a young man than the
personal, intimate knowledge open to him, of
the most prominent young man in the pages
of history. What other sage has a young man
would avail himself of an opportunity to know
Socrates, or Caesar, Cromwell or Napoleon. None
is one greater than this all, - the mightiest one,
the wonderful the Prince of Peace. Know him, see
him, and love him!

Further still, it is only by knowing Christ
that our growth can be properly directed. We
are not conscious of growing. We may look in
upon ourselves from time to time and

that we are larger than we ever before but we can
not control the process. All that we can do is
to place ourselves, to surround ourselves with
influences from without that we shall grow
into likeness to them. That our own life shall
take on more and more of them. If we sur-
round ourselves with the atmosphere of Christ,
if we know him, as we expand and develop
we shall take on more of that which we are
continually thinking about, that which we touch
and we shall grow into Christ. We never
grow into that of which we are ignorant,
we shall never grow in grace so long as we grow
also in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ.

There is one nation in the world, that he

Knowledge of Jesus leads us to the very heart of
the Scriptures. The Bible is the word of God, spoken
of old by holy men as they were moved by the
Holy Ghost. Jesus Christ was the Word made
flesh and dwelling among men. If we know Christ
we must know the Scriptures also for they are they that
testify of him. If we know the Scriptures we must
know Christ: he is the living expression of them. They
and he are inseparable. The types and shadows of the
Old Testament are part of him. The first Adam
was the figure of him that was to come. Noah
the just man, the preacher of righteousness the type
of that great preacher the Litch of whose name
John the Baptist was not worthy to unlace. Ab-
raham rejoiced to see his day and he saw it
and was glad. And can a clear take the

Isaac be concerned of the savior of the world in whom
all the nations of the earth were to be blessed.

And what was Jacob's ladder but an emblem of
that mystic ladder set up by Jesus, reopening
communication between earth and heaven, the
one mediator between God and man, forever open
and available. And so also Moses & Melchizedek;
Joseph Aaron, Joshua, Samson & David; Elijah, and
Elisha; Job, Jonah and Jeremiah, the Parable
Lazarus, the Veil of Cloud and Fire, the Manna, the
Smitten Rock, the Brazen Serpent, thescape-goat
the Cities of Refuge, the Year of Jubilee, the Good
Shepherd. - what were all these in their hidden
meaning but the types and shadows of the
good things to come in Jesus Christ. As when
out of scattered stones a marble, the artist

and patient since and true ends as temple too
it stood, great and complete; so we may gather
from the Old Testament scriptures part after
part of the life of Christ till it stands be-
fore us instead with his own divine life.
And if today the record of his life and death
in the New Testament should be blessed out, free
from the old prophecies and shadows we
could gather a Scripture account of him who
was despised and rejected, a man of sorrow
and acquainted with grief. The relationship which
Christ has to the Old Testament scriptures is
shown fully and strikingly by the testimony
which he gave himself. He was constantly
quoting them. Once "beginning at Moses and
all the prophets, he expounded unto him

the Scriptures to things concerning himself." "And he said
unto them, here are the words which I spoke unto you
which I was ^{and} with you, that are things which were
prophecies, which were written in the law of Moses
and in the prophets, and in the psalms concerning
me. Then opened he their understanding, that they
might understand the scriptures." And it is an
interesting fact also that many of the things
written in the Old Testament were regarded
as fables, myths or figures Christ believed and
appealed to as matters of fact. The Flood,
the calamity which befell Lot's wife in the
flight from Sodom, the salvation of Israel by
means of the brazen serpent, the fall of the
manna, the story of Jonah - to all these
Jesus gave the authority of his teaching.

it was as the records he spoke when he
said "Search the scriptures - they are they which testify
of me." It is of equal importance that we should
know the New Testament - the unfolding of that
which was contained in the old - the biography
of the Master - the only authoritative book on the
life and teaching of Christ. If we know Jesus
we shall know the Bible, and we can not know
the Bible without being brought out into the
free light of the knowledge of the Lord. If
then there are some here who would willingly know
the Lord Jesus Christ are in doubt as to the way,
this is a sure path - the study of the scriptures -
meditation upon them day and night, allowing
their entrance of his word which giveth light,
and which will instruct us in righteousness.

Rarely this knowledge of Jesus will help us
to understand the mystery and meaning of
life. Many and many a time the weary soul
rows down as the waves of life roll on over
and around it incessantly, and yearns to know
the meaning of it all. The great pageantry of
life surrounds and overwhelms us but it
seems meaningless and mockery. Why should
men live only to die? Why the one unending,
unchanging round. The child the youth the man,
the cradle, the home the grave? And tired as
love the hapless mind seeks a haven on
which to rest. If that haven be Christ the
light begins to dawn. In the knowledge of
him we learn to know ourselves and our
place we see how the purpose. A little journey

must be made preparatory to our going home - a
time of trial time as for the King. He who
took upon his divine life our poor human
form, that tempted in every point like us
as we are, yet without sin, he might be able
to know our wants and troubles, by the
holiness and the greatness of his life and sacri-
fice lifted our low humanity up to heaven
and gave to every believing soul the knowledge
of himself and of his Father. In him and his
knowledge life retains its sacredness and its mystery
but we begin to know its meaning. It is a
parade of the eternal life. It is the purple tri-
light which precedes the dawn. It is the pathway
up to heaven.

It is this to a true but partial view of

meaning of the knowledge of Christ Jesus there
is surely no one who would not seek it. But
it must be knowledge of Jesus and Jesus only.
"I determined not to know anything among you
save Jesus Christ and him Crucified" said Paul.
And many men who would like to know Jesus
prefer not knowing him at all to knowing nothing
ing saw him. They think it foolish and
narrow to spend so much energy upon the devel-
opment of the spiritual life. Knowing Jesus is
well enough, but knowing him only is too re-
ligious. They advise young people, especially not
to be carried away by any deep religious
current, but to stand firm where they are,
looking every direction, broad-minded, in-
terested in politics, public affairs and when

all these duties have been discharged, then to pay
their religious debts, attend to their spiritual
duties. In other words, while here put self
and my interests first and wait till the
next world before God and his kingdom
absorb your whole attention. My friend, if
there be one state of mind which more than
another the Lord rebuked with an indignation
as earnest as it was righteous, it was
this - the service of the two masters, care for
self-development, adjusting God's service to our-
selves, instead of throwing our whole lives -
body, soul and spirit - down at his feet
and crying "Thou Lord art I, take me and
use me, just as thou wilt and when and
where it best pleaseth thee". Trusting them

to the seed, and believing that he who sows the
seed of the field to grow, who can for our
growth. The Lord Jesus Christ demands every-
thing. "Whoever he be of you that forsaketh
not all that he hath, he can not be my dis-
ciple". And the great curse of our day religious-
ly is the half knowledge of Jesus, a partial
forsaking of part that we have: half way
men. - Who reject every thing from Christ and
yet are not willing to know nothing among
us save him and him crucified. And I
speak sincerely in saying that our first need
as Christian men and women is to anni-
hilate all our knowledge save that of Je-
sus Christ and him crucified. As the Lord
said through Jeremiah - "let not the wise man

glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man
glory in his might, let not the rich man glory
in his riches: but let him that boasteth glory
in this, that he understandeth and knoweth
me." And in the case of the wheelwright con-
sists in his knowledge of him, is indeed the
beginning of all wisdom. This view of the
true object of human knowledge is not a
narrow one. It does not imply that the
lawyer should forsake his books and his briefs,
the physician his cases and his practice, the
farmer give up his implements and his tools
and trust the fields to bring forth of them-
selves. But it does demand that we should
put things in their proper places and propor-
tions: that we should seek first the kingdom

of God and his righteousness in full confidence
that as these other things have to be added on
to us. It does demand that the knowledge first
imparted to and was impressed upon each child
competent to understand should be the know-
ledge of Jesus Christ. And as a lawyer, no
man will be a competent lawyer and pro-
fessed by reason of his knowing Christ first;
and in the same way the business man and
the farmer will be respected better farmers
and business men if they know Christ.
If he were a physician, a lawyer, a farmer
on the earth today, he might not be the
best man in his profession, apart from his
divine life, but he certainly would be the
best possible man he could be in it. And so

with those who know him the way not to
the best men in their line of work, although
I believe they will be, but assuredly they will
be the best possible men they can be. And the
true remedy for our failures in every de-
partment of life is a more extended and
more intimate knowledge of Jesus Christ
and it should be therefore the aim every
true follower of the master to extend the
circle of his acquaintances who know him
personally and intimately. And accordingly every
one of us who as his proposed disciples
should gain a knowledge of Jesus so true
and broad and deep that in comparison
with it as our other knowledge seems
hollow and into it and we can say

with Paul we know nothing save Jesus Christ
in whom are hid all treasures of wisdom
and knowledge

But after this difficulty is overcome, men
meet another - "we are asked" they say "to know
nothing save Jesus Christ and we may be
inclined to consider that, but you ask us
also to know him crucified." My friends, we
can not know Jesus only, without knowing
him crucified. It is not the crucifixion nor
the resurrection - but it is Christ - wounded for
our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities.
Men shrink from subjection to a humiliated
Christ. But when Christ was crucified, at that he
was exalted, and he exalted humanity with
him. It is this vision of Christ crucified which

beckons men to day. Paul responded to that call
with all the outspoken earnestness of his great
burning heart. In his final sacrifice Jesus
made atonement for us before God. Henceforth
we are at one with God. If in our stead or
some dearly beloved a friend whom we
had abused and rejected had laid down his
life for us and all children to our dying day
would know our thing and our thing differently
about all others - the sacrifice of that life.

Henceforth shall we not know Jesus Christ
and his sacrifice? Is it that with eyes on sky
we can not see Jesus? Look away to him
the author and finisher of faith who gave the
joy that was set before him, endured the
cross, despising the shame, and is set down

at the right hand of God." If it be kept stand in
the way, and look see. If it be pride choke down
the devil. If it be sin then came you are the
very one who shared mass of all with to
know the crucified Lamb - who takes away by
his own blood the sins of the world. We
have only to determine, to let our minds to know
him and to let his spirit also lead us to him-
self and to ever richer knowledge of him - the
Son of God, the Lamb that was slain, Jesus. Oh
may it be ours each one, continually to believe
by faith Christ crucified - to walk with Jesus
and be comforted by him. That he is all men
have proved by experience. In the Bible of a young
missionary who died recently in China were
found these verses which showed the power of

Jesus:

Jesus: my Jesus.

When I can scarcely read or pray
When troubled thoughts my soul dismay.
This precious name I softly say.

Jesus! Jesus!

Oh softer than a mother's ear
Her infant feels cry to hear
To him to catch the trembling prayer,

Jesus! Jesus!

When sin committed long ago
Causes burning bitter tears to flow.
No thought alone can calm my woe

Jesus! Jesus.

A savior like a thunder cloud
In darkness night my soul I shield

Out of the depths I cry aloud

Jesus! Jesus!

I lie a blood the foe come in

With thoughts of unbelief and sin,

Thine mighty Name, the fight that win

Jesus! Jesus!

I worn by long continued pain

I sigh for rest and sleep in vain,

Wearily I breathe thy name again,

Jesus! Jesus!

Oh let his precious name be said

In whisper o'er my dying bed,

To show my soul to comforted,

Jesus! Jesus!

And when upon the other side

We lie and sorrow there we lie

His praise shall echo o'er and o'er

Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!

Come to Christ crucified: And you who have
come abide in him: and let us who know him
spread his knowledge abroad. Such is God's plan.
The life of his son in history shall never cease,
"His influence grows more and more: the dead
nations are waiting till it reach them, and
it is the hope of the earnest spirits that are bring-
ing in the new earth. All discoveries of the modern
world, every development of juster ideas, of higher
powers, of more exquisite feelings in manhood, all only
new keys to interpret and know Him; and the
lifting up of life to the level of this idea and
character is the programme of God for the hu-
man race."

RECEIVED AT

291 MAIN ST. Cor. COURT SQ.
GREENFIELD, MASS.
TELEPHONE "POSTAL TELEGRAPH"
1921

STANDARD TIME
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

Postal Telegraph

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Commercial
Cables



All America
Cables

Mackay

Radio

This is a full rate Telegram, Cablegram or Radiogram unless otherwise indicated by signal in the check or in the address.

DL	DAY LETTER
NL	NIGHT LETTER
NM	NIGHT MESSAGE
LCO	DEFERRED CABLE
NLT	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
WLT	WEEK END CABLE LETTER
	RADIOGRAM

Form
16

~~SG1 9~~ CB LAKE PLACID CLUB NY 16 1150P

ROBERT E SPEER

NORTHFIELD MASS

DEEPEST SYMPATHY ELLIOTTS DEATH INCALCULABLE LOSS TO US ALL

JOHN H MACCRACKEN

Telephone Your Telegrams to *Postal Telegraph*

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

1223-S

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

GR24 31=PHILADELPHIA PENN SEP 15 907A

DR AND MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

CARE MRS ELLIOTT SPEER EASTNORTHFIELD MASS=

:OUR HEARTS GO OUT TO YOU IN DEEPEST AND :MOST PRAYERFUL
SYMPATHY IF THERE IS ANY WAY IN WHICH I CAN BE OF THE
SLIGHTEST SERVICE PLEASE DO LET ME KNOW=

LEWIS S MUDGE.

953A

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

1223-S

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

SIGNS

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Ship Radiogram

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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GR25 8=NEWROCHELLE NY SEP 15 903A

DR AND MRS ROBERT E SPEER=
=NORTHFIELD MASS=

SYMPATHY AND LOVE BEYOND WORDS IN YOUR SORROW=
ROBERT GARDNER MCGREGOR.]

953A

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

SIGNS

- DL = Day Letter
- NM = Night Message
- NL = Night Letter
- LCO = Deferred Cable
- NLT = Cable Night Letter
- WLT = Week-End Letter

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

MOA477 37 NL

1934 SEP 17 PM 9 51

dup XV
replied
44

MONTREAL QUE 17

DR AND MRS ROBERT E SPEER

156 FIFTH AVE NYK

JUST LEARNED OF HOME GOING OF DEAR ELLIOTT OUR HEARTS DEEPEST
 PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY GO OUT TO ALL OF YOU WE THANK GOD FOR HIS
 CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER WITNESS AND SERVICE FOR HIS WONDERFUL PREPAREDNESS
 AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING

R. E. Speer

JOHN AND LEILA MOTT.

SEP 19 1934



PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
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NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

GR29 30=MS NEWYORK NY SEP 15 846A

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

DR ROBERT E SPEER=

=MOUNTHERMON SCHOOL MOUNTHERMON MASS=

:MRS MCAFEE AND I ARE STUNNED YOU WILL BE CONSTANTLY IN OUR THOUGHTS DURING THIS EXPERIENCE STOP CAN EITHER OF US RELIEVE YOU AND MRS SPEER AT ANY POSSIBLE POINT=

:CLELAND B MCAFEE.

958A

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
 NM = Night Message
 NL = Night Letter
 LC = Deferred Cable
 NLT = Cable Night Letter
 Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

GR103 50 DL= NEWYORK NY SEPT 15 1934 1250PM=

DR ROBERT E SPEER=

M THERMON SCHOOL M THERMON MASS=

LARGE STAFF PRAYER MEETING NOON TODAY SENDS ASSURANCE OF DEEP SYMPATHY WITH YOU AND MRS SPEER HOUSEHOLD AND FAR AWAY DAUGHTERS WE ARE MYSTIFIED BUT DRIVEN BACK ON THE LOVE OF GOD WHICH NEVER FAILS WE TRUST HIS UNFAILING GRACE TO SUSTAIN YOU AND GIVE YOU SENSE OF HIS OWN NEARNESS=

CLELAND B MCAFEE.

{147PM}

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

1201-S

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WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

GR130 15=GREENWICH CONN SEP 15 403P

DR AND MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

=METHERMON SCHOOL NORTHFIELD MASS=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

OVERWHELMED BY TRAGIC NEWS BE ASSURED OF OUR LOVING AND
PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY FOR YOU ALL=

=MINOT AND MARGARETTA MORGAN.

438P

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

1223S

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

SIGNS

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NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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WBK6 8=NEWYORK NY SEP 17 822A

MRS R E SPEER=

ROCKLEDGE LAKEVILLE CONN=

PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE SYMPATHY IN YOUR SORROW=

RICAL

. 832A...

*Not a visitation
& letter sent.*

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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 Ship Radiogram

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Received at

GR168 13 3 EXTRA=TDWI OXFORD PENN VIA MS NEWYORK NY 15
 DR AND MRS ROBERT E SPEER=
 CARE MRS ELLIOTT SPEER METHERMON MASS=

ANSIT
LETTER

LOVE AND DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO EACH IN THIS SAD TRIAL=

LETITIA W MURDAUGH.

(904P)...

Letter

CLASS OF SERVICE .

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

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Ship Radiogram

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Received at

GR152 9=HUNTINGTON PENN SEP 15 542P

DR R E SPEER=

=M THERMON SCHOOL / EASTNORTHFIELD MASS=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

MY HEART AND THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU DEAREST LOVE=

=CLARA MCMURTRIE.

601P

Ames. 4/25



Dear Rob

It was with a
sorrow we read the ac-
count of the tragic
death of your beloved
son Elliott. He has
always been spoken
of as such a fine
noble fellow, and I

Pain and Comfort you
in your deep bereavement.

Remember your old
friend

Mary Doris Miller

Sept. 19th 1934

"Briarcliff"

Huntingdon Pa.

P.S. I called Margaret Reed on phone for

know what his loss will
mean to you, and each
member of your family.
Our hearts go out to
all in loving sympathy
in which Christ joins.
He would have writ-
ten you too, but he
is ill in bed, where
he has been for the
last three weeks.

May the Lord Ans.

Your address, but she was out, so
called your Aunt Clara M^r: Murtrie.
She tells me your son William is
teaching in the Asheville (N.C.) school
that is where our son Herbert grad-
uated. We feel it is just about
the finest school in the country.
Some day I hope to meet William.
Possibly down there.

M.D.M.

Copy
from Mrs. Speer.

Box Hill

Dorning

May 7th. 1888. —

Dear Mr. Touse.

My letter will have been forwarded to you but I must write to join hands with you in this affliction. I have looked through the back door of recent years and although I could not then have taken consolation from any phrases in my ear, I should have reflected and perhaps got some strength if one had told me that

heart of your trial to have in the grasp. For one who
is not an ardent being, tried, there is danger of
its leading to Caler philosophy. Not so in
your case. I trust to the best that may be
tried for you and all.

Faithfully yours

George Meredith

Mr Edmund Gosse

Sanctuary

St Marys Church

Devon.

it is only the sorrows which are hurt
by a facing of death, or the matter
with him for one beloved. What we
have of better and above these comes
out of it the nobler.

I remember reading a sonnet of
yours on "the dream of the lost". It spoke
the anguished well. But our final
thought shall be that we have souls
O Master Pain and fear. Death the
visible feeder of life should be our
familiar. I have him on my left
hand and am not irreverently at
home with him. - To see this,
is to be near upon touch of the Key
of Wisdom, but for the matter of
Parson it is only good in the White

Copy of a letter of sympathy
from George Merriam to
his friend, the critic, Sir Edmund
Gosse. 1888.

Good
D.V.

MERRILLTON
NEWPORT
RHODE ISLAND

My dear Robie

It is impossible for me to put your boys' tragic death out of my mind & I can imagine your suffering. He had chosen such a noble career that I had hoped he would have been spared for a number of years but God willed it otherwise - at least he did not suffer and we must be thankful for that! Mary will mourn and especially his own immediate family - for whom I sympathize most deeply - I know what a comfort you will be to them - Tell Mrs. Spear how deeply I feel for her - Her faith & courage will help her greatly, I am sure - I wish I could be of some help to you but my recent illness makes me incapable of

doing much & I am not in Stockbridge
this summer but in Newport, R.I. -
where I have bought a house -
I will be glad to hear from you,
should you care to give me further
details - Meanwhile I want you
to feel that I am thinking of
you & remembering you in my
prayers -

Believe me, my dear Robin,
ever affectly yours,
George Grenville Merrill.

Sept - 18 - 39

Ans

THE BRICK CHURCH
412 FIFTH AVENUE

Dear Robert,

I was inexpressibly shocked
at hearing yesterday of the
death of your son Elliott.
I want you to know that my
heart is full of sorrow, love,
and sympathy for you, your
wife, and her wife & children.
I saw them in Northfield in
June, and he was so fine,
and the children so happy
with him.

I thank God, my dear friend,
that you know the grace that

is with you.

Ever faithfully yours,

Miss F. Merrill

Label Land,

September 16th,
1934.

is in our Lord Jesus Christ.
May that sustaining grace
Come to you in its fulness,
and make you very sure
that neither life nor death
can separate you from the
love of God which is in
Christ Jesus our Lord.

Please do not take any
notice of this note. It is just
a nod to let you know that
I think of you, and pray for
you. Beloved, if we so love
one another, how much more
must God love us. Thy heart

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

12235

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

NL = Night Letter

LCO = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Letter

WLT = Week-End Letter

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

NAF25 11=SI NEWYORK NY SEP 15 829A

DR AND MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

LAKEVILLE CONN=

MY HEART ACHES FOR YOU MAY GOD BLESS AND COMFORT YOU=

RACHEL K MCDOWELL.

842A..

TELEPHONE No. _____

TELEPHONED TO *Mrs. Thomas Brown*

TIME *8:45a*

BY *J* TO EC. *flc*

ADMITTED _____

DELIVERED _____

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

1223S

CLASS OF SERVICE

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NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

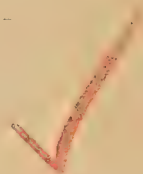
J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

NAK66 21=SUMMIT NJ SEP 15 1112A

DR AND MRS SPEER=

LAKEVILLE CONN=



HEARTFELT SYMPATHY OF US ALL GOES OUT TO YOU AND EVERY MEMBER OF FAMILY IN VIEW OF TERRIBLE AND MYSTERIOUS TRAGEDY=

JOHN A MACKAY.

1137A.

TELEPHONE No. *282*

TELEPHONED TO

TIME.....

BY..... TO BE.....

ATTEMPTS }
TO }
DELIVER }

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

1223S

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NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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NG93 14 XC=RIDGEWOOD NJ SEP 15 807P

REV ROBERT E SPEAR=I

_LAKEVILLE CONN=

JUST READ EVENING PAPER NOTHING I CAN SAY WILL HELP CAN I DO ANYTHING=

C C MILES.

825P

TELEPHONE No.

TELEPHONED TO

TIME

ADDRESS }

DELIVER }

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
 NM = Night Message
 NL = Night Letter
 LC = Deferred Cable
 NLT = Cable Night Letter
 Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

MBL 65 13 3 EXTRA=TDRS CHATHAM MASS VIA METHERMON MASS SEP 17

DOCTOR AND MRS ROBERT SPEER

:ROCKLEDGE LAKEVILLE CONN:

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

=ALL OUR SYMPATHY IS WITH YOU ALL AT THIS TIME=

NINA MCALPIN.

407P.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION (25)

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

- DL = Day Letter
- NM = Night Message
- NL = Night Letter
- LC = Deferred Cable
- NLT = Cable Night Letter
- Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

1934 SEP 17 PM 5 26

EAA152 49 NL=SEATTLE WASH 17

DR ROBERT E SPEER=

156 FIFTH AVE NYK=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

HAVE JUST HEARD OF YOUR SORROW IN THE LOSS OF YOUR PRECIOUS SON STOP YOU HAVE OUR PROFOUND SYMPATHY LOVE AND PRAYERS STOP HE IS NOW IN HIS HEAVENLY HOME AND MAY GOD BLESS COMFORT AND KEEP YOU AND THE LOVED ONES UNTIL THE DAY OF THE HAPPY REUNION=

M A MATTHEWS.

SEP 18 1934

In My Father's House

"In my Father's House there are many rooms"—John 14:2

NO, not cold beneath the grasses,
Not close-walled within the tomb;
Rather, in my Father's mansion,
Living in another room.

Living, like the one who loves me,
Like my child with cheeks abloom,
Out of sight, at desk or school-book,
Busy in another room.

Nearer than my son whom fortune
Beckons where the strange lands loom;
Just behind the hanging curtain,
Serving in another room.

Shall I doubt my Father's mercy?
Shall I think of death as doom,
Or the stepping o'er the threshold
To a bigger, brighter room?

Shall I blame my Father's wisdom?
Shall I sit enswathed in gloom,
When I know my loves are happy,
Waiting in the other room?

—ROBERT FREEMAN

625 South 16th Street
San Jose, California

21st September.

My dear Mrs. Spicer.

I have been from home for a month, & a friend told me of the great sorrow that had come to you. I just wish you to know how truly I sympathize with you & my whole family. I can realize from my own sad experience how you must feel. Our daughter died when she was eighteen, but she was so bright & unselfish & she was devoted to her father & brother, so you can imagine what a loss she was in our home & church life. Then when Mr. Moore left me I scarcely know what to do. But we know the only Lord & Master who as our Friend is a Comforter.

ready to help & comfort us when
we have to pass through the deep
waters of sorrow & trouble.

Isn't it a blessing we can count
on help from such a wonderful
friend? You have been such
a help to so many! God bless
& support you & yours in this
time of sorrow. I found the
enclosed lines in Vernez's Bible
& as the simple words have
helped me, I pass them on to you.
Assuring you of my warm tender
sympathy. Believe me,

Your sincere friend,

Mary J. Moore.

LINES FOUND IN DR T.VERNER'S BIBLE.

" IF I SHOULD DIE, AND LEAVE YOU HERE AWHILE,
BE NOT LIKE OTHERS, SORE UNDONE- WHO KEEP
LONG VIGILS- BY THE SILENT DUST, AND WEEP;
FOR MY SAKE -TURN AGAIN TO LIFE-AND SMILE,
NERVING THY HEART-AND TREMBLING HAND TO DO
SOMETHING TO COMFORT WEAKER HEARTS THAN THINE,
COMPLETE THESE DEAR UNFINISHED TASKS OF MINE,
AND I, PERCHANCE - MAY THEREIN COMFORT YOU."



ALTITUDE, 2500 TO 5600 FEET

Assembly

Inn

Montreat
N.C.

Sept.

Dear Dr. Speer.

We have just seen in
Asheville paper an account
of the terrible tragedy that
has come into your home.
and I want you to know,
how our hearts go out to
you and yours.

Perennially I know that
at a time like this, human
words are so inadequate.
but to feel others do really
care - does make the
heart-ache a little less,
and the tears not quite
so scalding -

So I want you & Mrs
Speer to know that we



ALTITUDE, 2500 TO 5600 FEET

Assembly

June

Montreat
N.C.

who know and appreciate
you here at Montreat do
really care, and are praying
God to strengthen, guide &
comfort not only you, but
all of your dear ones; who
are so sorely bereaved.

I feel sure all of your
many friends through our
Church, will join me in
Loving Sympathy.

Mrs. Datter. } S. P. McCoy.

0/6
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
EAST GRAND BOULEVARD AND PRESTON STREET
IVANHOE 7722
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

MINISTER

WALTER EMERSON MCCLURE, D. D.
728 EAST GRAND BOULEVARD

Sept. 24, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer;---

Our sympathy to you and our prayers for you
in this time of sorrow.

Yours in Faith, Hope and Love,

Mr + Mrs W.E. McClure

Ans
10/6

London Sept 16
Miss M. M. Mail. - the wife of an ally and friend
member of The Foreign Board
118 EAST THIRTY-SIXTH STREET
was a plan.

My dear Robert:

Our hearts ache for you
and dear Mrs. Sheer - and the
wife of Eliot and the little children -

"Lord, be Thou within us to
strengthen us; without us to
keep us; above us to protect us;
Beneath us to uphold us; before us
to direct us; behind us to keep us
from straying; around us at all
times to defend us" - amen -

Yours in deepest sympathy & affection,

E. M. M.

E. M. M.

4440 Campus Ave

Ans

San Diego Sunday morning, 6/10

Calif

Sept 30, 1934.

Dear Dr. Spur:

I am only one of the many Presbyterian missionaries whose lives you have touched. You will not remember me but I remember a day during one of the June conferences when you entertained me with many others in your home, although I finally went to Africa and have not been directly under your supervision.

Your addresses and books have very profoundly influenced my spiritual life and I have followed you thru the last years of the attacks of the enemy against you, those laymen's reports and child play over the expression of "with regret", and new boards, with my deepest sympathy and whole hearted confidence, and fervent prayer.

And now comes this crowning sorrow in the death of your son. This year has also brought to me a crowning sorrow in my withdrawal from the field, but it is not comparable to yours. However it does give me ground on which to be able to offer you an understanding sympathy.

May God, as He always has, carry you through even this

in a way which will be to
His glory.

Most sincerely yours,

Helen L. Moore.

210

Church of the Covenant,
Washington, D. C.

ALBERT JOSEPH McCARTNEY, MINISTER

My dear Dr. Speer

Here in Washington your
many friends have been
sorely grieved to read of
the tragedy that has
come with your family
side and they wish to
join Mrs. McCarney and me
in conveying to you
our prayers & sympathy.

I spoke of it at the
Sunday morning
service and the Session
as well as the members
of the congregation wish
to join me in this
note.

Your own great faith -
The surely tried will
strengthen you as it
has strengthened
many another in

then to me of truth.

I did not know Elliot
but I had many close
friends who did not
they told him in
such high esteem.

So keep and cherish
you and yours - my
dear friend.

Sincerely,
Albert Joseph McArthur

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

1223S

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J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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NY19019=NORTHAVEN ME 16 1222P

MR AND MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

LAKEVILLE CONN=

DEAR EEMMA AND ROB HOW MY HEART GOES OUT TO YOU IN LOVING SYMPATHY IN THIS SUDDEN OVERWHELMING SORROW=

BETTY.

411P.

*Order
6/17/19
Out 1/3*

893

Witherspoon College

Buckhorn, Kentucky
(R. R. STATION, CHAVIES, KY.)

HARVEY S. MURDOCH, PRESIDENT

G. GORDON MAHY, JR. DEAN

L. A. JOHNSON, BUSINESS MANAGER

Oct. 5, 1934

Dear Dr. Spear:

The Buckhorn country has
grieved with you and Mrs.
Spear and with others of the
family in the great affliction
through which you have
been passing, and our deepest
sympathy has been with you.

The first time I ever heard
you make an address was
at Northfield forty two years ago
when you spoke on the text,
"Remember Jesus Christ." I am sure
you are doing that today
remembering Jesus Christ and that
He is remembering you. God bless you.
Mrs. Murdoch joins me in warmest affection.

Sincerely

Your friend,

Harvey S. Murdoch

57
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PENNINGTON, N. J.
A. KENNETH MAGNER, MINISTER

Sept. 17 1934

Dear Dr and Mrs Spear,

May I try to convey to you the heartfelt sympathy which comes not only from me but my whole congregation.

I cannot express the feeling I had when Dr Erdman told me the terrible news.

I can only say I understand something of what it means as we lost our boy but a year ago. Rather God took him. And I know His grace is sufficient for our every need.

With deepest sympathy

A. K. Magner

ack. WASH Oct 17

New York.

Sept. 16 1934.

Dear Mrs Spear:

just a note to tell you
how much you and your family
have been in my thinking these
last few days and how my love
and sympathy go out to you.

I'm sure that you must be

conscious of the love that has been
expressed in prayers all around the
world for you and Dr. Speer.

affectionately
Elizabeth McFarland



extra
at 495-

43 Fifth Avenue
New York

Dear Mrs. Speer:

You have been much
in my mind, particularly since my
return only a few days ago from Europe,
and I am sending this message of
sympathy that you may know how
deeply I feel for you.

That you have been a wonderful
mother I know full well, and to have
had such a splendid son must have
given you joy and comfort.

You will always have happy
memories of your days together, and

I trust that the days to come
may hold for you much of peace
and satisfaction as you witness the
fulfilment of a life work - so
worthwhile, so fine, to which your
dear one was so devoted.

To you and yours my hus-
band and I convey our sym-
pathy and regard.

Sincerely yours,

Frances W. McCall

October 21st

OH

HARVARD CLUB
27 WEST 44TH STREET

Tuesday
Dear Dr. & Mrs. Spurr,
Mrs. Milliken

and I are shocked and
grieved beyond ex-
pression by the
tragedy.

We value the

utter futility of words
and can only
offer the assurance
of heartfelt sympathy.

Sincerely

Carle Wilson

Dear Doctor Sheer Richmond Va Oct

We do not forget the lo-
ving sympathy expressed to us
by you when our great sor-
row came last January.

And now a very mysterious
providence comes to you and

we assure you of our great
sympathy for you and yours.
This comforting message comes to
me again and I pass it on.

Beloved, I think it not strange concerning
the fiery trial which is to try you, as also
some strange thing happened unto you;
But rejoice, inasmuch as ye see partakers
of Christ's sufferings; that when his glory shall
be revealed, ye may be glad also with ex-
ceeding joy. I. Peter 4-12.

Mrs & Mrs A. S. Miller.

October 15 1934

52

Duquesne Club
Pittsburgh

Sunday
September 27.

Dear Mr. Spear:

I was glad to learn
of the deep waters through
which you have been
passing. But even when the
waves are not finding
out, the sea is
sufficient for us

10
Truly yours

Alfred S. Mackenzie

OC 4/21

316 E. 5th St
Ollumwa, Iowa

Sept. 19th '34

My dear Mr. Speer:

We who have known
and loved you these
many years are sorrowing
deeply with you and Dr
Speer and the family of
your beloved son over his
tragic summons.

For him - a glorious
translation to his Master's
presence! - but for his
loved ones - we can
but faintly imagine the
shock and anguish.

God comfort you all.

I cherish in my
memory an hour
spent in your home in
Lehewood when I was
a young secretary in
Harlem. You gave me
such a kind welcome
and "little Elliott"
enjoyed with us the
lively colors of the drift-
wood that you piled
on the open fire.

Since then I
have followed his
career with great

intense and honest
of his radiant person-
ality and devoted
service. It seems
that the world could
ill spare such an
one!

Words are cold in
the face of such a loss,
but I wanted you to
know. Dear Mrs. Spear,
that I in common
with countless friends,
are bearing you -

my heart and in
my prayers.

My sister joins me
in love and
tenderest sympathy.

Faithfully yours

Mary W. Elroy

ack.

of the great
Museum

Sept. 18.

Dear Mrs. Spear:-

Only last evening I heard of the dog, that has come to your farm.

I can't get it out of my mind, it seems so dreadful, and oh

All I can do is to pray
and my prayers are going
up for you, your father and
the devoted wife.

I know God will be very
near and dear to you - at
this time, and may He give
you the great strength you need.
Very affectionately, Edw. H. Mason.

What is happen to
your family, it
seem impossible
you, who are friends
of everybody and the
whole world!

All I can say is
my heart is aching
for you and the very
deepest sympathy is
going out to you.

with
at 4/5
to all 1/2

Dec. 10. ¹⁵

Dear, dear Mrs. Zee:-

For weeks

I have promised myself that
one of the first notes I should
write as soon as I was able
to write at all would be to you.

I want you to know
that your note written when as
you said "the face of life was

Q'tered for you too" will always
be one of my most treasured
possessions.

For weeks I did not know
what you meant for I was
too ill to be told but now
as I read and reread your
note in the light of all that
has happened it had an ever
increasing depth and richness
of meaning for me
and I am hearing

Constantly from all who have
the privilege of coming in
contact with you the inspiration
you are as a "Living witness".

I shall never cease
to be grateful for the years
of association I had with you
in the work we both love and
the help you gave me in ways
of which you were perhaps
unconscious.

My love and deep
gratitude to you. Yr. truly yours
Anna C. McArthur

574

Although
the Curtain Falls



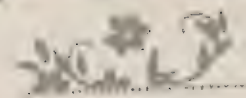


Dear Dr. & Mrs. Linn.


Kindly accept the
deepest sympathy from all
the Misses at "156"

Mrs. B. Madsen

Loop italy - Linn



There comes a time for all of us
When we must say goodbye
But faith and hope and love and trust
Can never, never die;
Although the curtain falls at last~
Is that a cause to grieve?
The future's fairer than the past
If only we believe
And trust in God's eternal care~~
So when the Master calls
Let's say that life is still more fair
Although the curtain falls.



With deepest sympathy.

520

Miss Jane K. Morrow

Seven Gramercy Park West

67

Mrs. Walter McDougall
5 Duryea Road
Upper Montclair, N. J.

Sept-17-'34

Dear Friends -

Among the hundreds
of friends who are constantly
remembering you in tenderest
sympathy and prayer, at this
time of poignant sorrow, you
may count upon us. We
are praying for you day
and night, and for the dear
wife and children. We know
that "He who spared not his
own Son" can and does know

Thank God for the message it
brings; may it mean a new
prayer-life to hundreds of its readers.

If only we could pierce the veil
and see to what higher service our
humble ones are called, our lonely sad
hearts would be comforted!

Yours in deep sympathy, but looking
to "That Blessed Hope"

Anna Pierson M. Douglas

Hearing that you were being overwhelmed
with letters I held this back for a few
days.

what you are suffering
these days. We are all
thankful that you are all
in such intimate fellowship
with Him that you can trust
Him in the dark, and we
know that - He who is the
light will lighten this dark-
ness.

I had been thinking a good
deal of dear Mrs. Owen last
week because I was reading
her helpful and inspiring
little book "Lord Teach us to Pray"

57

ARTHUR Y. MEEKER
19 NORTHVIEW AVENUE
UPPER MONTCLAIR, N. J.

Sept 23rd, 1934

My dear Dr. Speer,

Mrs. Meeker and I wish to extend to you and Mrs. Speer and your sons family our sincere sympathy. We have prayed for you all of us during these days. I hope you have been passing through such deep waters.

He cannot understand why these things
should be, but in rejoice for a faith
which wades through "the valley of the
shadow of death".

I recall a sermon which you pre-
ached to us thirty odd years ago at
Northfield. Remember Jesus Christ from
this text "Lose not this hope in him,
for he will himself save us as he is pure".

So that with apostle Paul wrote
"As seeing him who is invisible" will
keep you and multiply your usefulness
and make a great blessing of your own
work and memory. We are praying for dear
father also.

Faithfully yours. Arthur H. Macker

59

MRS. W. T. MITCHELL
705 NORTH BEVER STREET
WOOSTER, OHIO

Sept. 20, 1934

My dear Dr. Speer,

We just wanted you to know
that our hearts go out in loving sympathy
to you and Mrs. Speer and your son's
family in this time of your sore trouble.
And our prayer is that the God of all
comfort may grant you courage and
strength to face each day as it comes.

Cordially yours

Jane F. Mitchell
Rachel Mitchell

Comforting Words
of Jesus



Christ The Comforter

**Comforting Words
of Jesus**

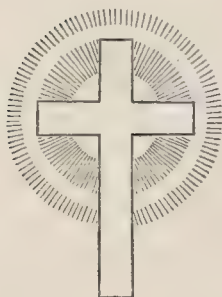
AND

The Ministry of Sorrow

BY

CHAS. F. WEIGLE

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



PRICE TEN CENTS

Published by
MEYER & BROTHER
230 E. Ohio Street, Chicago, Ill

Comforting Words of Jesus

“Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”—John 14:1, 2, 3.

* * * *

“I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.”—John 11:25, 26.

* * * *

“I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever.”—John 14:16.

* * * *

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”—John 16:33.

The Ministry of Sorrow

“When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”—Isa. 43:2.

The path of the Christian is at times beset with difficulties. For some sufficient reason God allows us to be opposed by agencies which seek to hinder our progress. We pass through deep waters which threaten to overflow us, and are surrounded with burning fires of trial and affliction which threaten to consume us. Goodness and saintliness do not seem to be insurance against trouble and sorrow. God nowhere promises to keep off the flood, nor to quench the fire. He nowhere tells us that we shall elude poverty, be exempt from bereavement and escape adversity. He does not seem to rate worldly ease as being important, but rather says, “In the world ye shall have tribulation.” Hence we need to remember that adversity and misfortune are not always tokens of divine disfavor, and neither do they indicate that life is a failure.

Why?

There are many of life's sorrows for which there seems to be no explanation. It is important that we believe there is an explanation, even though we fail to discover what it may be. We must believe that there is a purpose running through all the dark, forbidding experiences of our life. It is enough for some of us to believe that the explanation of the mystery is in the heart of God, whether He ever reveals it to us or not. We know that God is always working for our good. He is in the storm as well as in the calm; in our sorrows as well as in our joys; in days of adversity as well as in days of prosperity. We must not give up faith when the storm rages. If we listen we will hear His voice, and if we look we will see His face. God is in the midst of the storm and God is love.

A Holy Discipline

Sorrows and trials are part of a holy discipline. They are necessary to our education. All education is but another word for pain, trial, trouble and discipline. We learn by pain, we advance by strange and often intolerable agonies. We cannot understand why our ignorance should be driven away by processes that wear and tear the finest sensibilities of the soul. Remember the tasks we had in school, the lines to commit to memory, the whippings when we were unruly, the scoldings and the buffetings, the headaches, the disappointments and the troubles, and yet the result of the whole is wisdom and the formation of a proper character. All these things were working together for our good although we failed to see it at the time. And so also our present trials and troubles may be working for our ultimate good, although we may not be able to see it until in our far tomorrows.

Suffering and Sympathy

Suffering also develops the capacity of the soul. It enables us to touch our neighbors and sympathize with them. Someone writes of an island "whose shores are washed by silver and turquoise seas, whose air is filled with the fragrance of blooming flowers, and with the music of the winds and the song-birds, but the island is uninhabited for it has no harbor. High sand cliffs and dangerous rocks girt it around and make impossible the landing of any vessel. But one day a great tidal wave rolls in from the outer sea, and a mighty earthquake shakes the island from center to circumference. The cliffs of sand crumble and a great gash is cut in the island's side, into which the waters rush and form a bay. In time great ships come and anchor there. A populous city springs up along the shores, the fields are farmed and the air resounds with the shouts of children. The storm has given the island a harbor." The story

is all fiction, says the one who writes it, until we call the island the "heart" and the tidal wave "sorrow". Our storms are harbor builders, and they open quiet havens in our experience, into which human barques tossed on life's restless sea may drop anchor for a little while and get fixed for further voyage.

Crushings Cause Fragrance

The rose geranium sends forth its fragrance as a result of its being crushed. The crushings cause the fragrance. It is the same way in our lives. It was so with George Matheson. In the night of his sorrow when darkness closed in on him because of the loss of his sight, and also the loss of the woman he loved, he wrote the following words and sent them out to bless many a burdened heart:

'Oh Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee!
I give Thee back the life I owe
That in Thine ocean's depths, its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to Thee!
My heart restores its borrowed ray
That in Thy sunshine's glow its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee!
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee!
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be."

The Right Attitude

We must not take a wrong attitude under adverse conditions. One may complain at his lot and rising up, protest against the fate which has overtaken him. This is rebellion. It is rebellion to defy God and charge Him foolishly. This does not lift the burden nor better conditions. A bird never gains its freedom by fighting the bars of its cage with its wings.

A better attitude is that of endurance. It is to meet our lot with stoical firmness and heroically submit without a murmur of complaint. It is an evidence of moral courage to bear without a whine the hurts of fate and the ills of life. Nevertheless there is no particular virtue in suffering merely for the sake of it.

The attitude of the real Christian is that of victory. A saintly woman, tried for many weary months by a painful illness which ended at the grave, said to a minister shortly before passing

away, "I've such a lovely robin that sings outside my window. In the early morning as I lie here he serenades me. And I love him so because he sings in the rain." That is the beautiful thing about the robin—he sings although the rain has silenced all the other birds. And this is the glorious thing about the child of God who triumphs in the storm and smiles in the darkness, sustained by the grace of God.

“Be of Good Cheer!”

Jesus had a way of saying so often “Be of good cheer.” One day four men carried a palsied man to the house where He was teaching and laid him at the Master’s feet, and He said, “Son, be of good cheer.” When the disciples were in the midst of a storm on the Sea of Galilee, He appeared to them coming across the waves and said, to quiet their fears, “Be of good cheer.” And one of the most remarkable sayings that ever fell from the lips of Jesus was this, “In the world ye shall have tribulations, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” Christ did not make light of men’s troubles. He did not say there was no such thing as sickness or pain or trouble. Sickness was real, the storm was fierce, and the enemies of Christ were blood-thirsty. Yet He says, “Be of good cheer.” And that is victory.

The Secret of Victory

Let me tell you the secret of victory. It is the presence of the conquering Christ. It is this which puts strength in the weak arms and hope in the despairing hearts. "When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee." An invisible presence is to accompany us. God pledges the fellowship of His presence through all the storm and stress of the onward way. He does not leave the soul to struggle on alone. He builds around the tried and tempted life the living wall of an invisible, but invincible and divine presence. He shares our burdens and mingles His tears with our sorrows.

God Is Always Near

And so we as pilgrims journey on. We may meet new enemies at every turn of the road, and our path may be beset with difficulties, the furnace-fires may flame at us, but we know that One is near who loves and cares for us. Thank God, sorrow can never be so crushing but it can be comforted; adversity's night is never so black but morning light will gleam. Even death cannot frighten when God is near, for we hear Him saying, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

"When sunset comes; when evening bell calls, then we will meet our Pilot when we put out to sea."

"Is there any heart discouraged as it
journeys on its way?

Does there seem to be more darkness than
there is of sunny day?

Oh, it's hard to learn the lesson as we
pass beneath the rod,

That the sunshine and the shadow serve
alike the will of God;

But there comes a word of promise like
the promise in the bow—

That however deep the waters they shall
never overflow.

When a sorrow comes upon you that no
other soul can share,

And the burden seems too heavy for the
human heart to bear,

There is One whose grace can comfort if
you'll give Him an abode;

There's a Burden-bearer ready if you'll
trust Him with your load;

For the precious promise reaches to the
depths of human woe,

That however deep the waters they shall
never overflow.

When the sands of life are ebbing and I
near the Jordan shore,

When I see its billows rising and I hear
its waters roar,

I will reach my hand to Jesus, in His bosom
I will hide,

And 'twill only be a moment till I reach
the other side;

It is then the fullest meaning of the prom-
ise I shall know,

"When thou passest through the waters
they shall never overflow."

"God laid on my back a grievous load,
A heavy cross to bear along the road.
I staggered on and lo! one weary day,
An angry lion sprang across my way.
I prayed to God, and swift at His command
The cross became a weapon in my hand.
It slew my raging enemy, and then
Became a cross upon my back again.

I faltered many a league, until at length,
Groaning I fell, and had no further
strength,
"O God," I cried, "I am so weak and lame!"
Then straight my cross a winged staff
became.
It swept me on till I regained the loss,
Then leaped upon my back, again a cross.

I reached a desert, o'er the burning track
I persevered, the cross upon my back.
No shade was there, and in the cruel sun
I sank at last and thought my days were
done.

But lo! the Lord works many a blest
surprise—

The cross became a tree before my eyes!
I slept; I woke, to feel the strength of ten.
I found the cross upon my back again.

And thus through all my days, from that
to this,
The cross, my burden, has become my
bliss;
Nor ever shall I lay the burden down,
For God some day will make the cross a
crown."

—Amos R. Wells.

with
Deepest Sympathy

Mr. and Mrs. John Thomas Manson

57

CHIENGMAI HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.

Chiangmai, Siam.

Claremont, California

Sept., 17. 1934

My dear Robert: ,

The radio and the newspapers have brought the very terrible news of the death of your dear son, Mr. Elliot-Speer, by the hand of an assassin.

Mrs. McKean and I are without words to express our concern and our sympathy for Mrs. Speer and yourself and for Mr. Elliot's family -

We can only pray, pray, pray -

Very affectionately yours

James McKean.

Dr. Robt. E. Speer
150. Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

RECEIVED AT
201 MAIN ST. Cor. COURT SQ.
NORTHFIELD, MASS.
"POSTAL TELEGRAPH"
INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD TIME
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

Postal Telegraph

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Commercial
Cables



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Cables

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DL	DAY LETTER
NL	NIGHT LETTER
NM	NIGHT MESSAGE
LCO	DEFERRED CABLE
NLT	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
WLT	WEEK END CABLE LETTER
	RADIOGRAM

Form
16

SG1 9 CB LAKE PLACID CLUB NY 16 1150

ROBERT E SPEER
NORTHFIELD MASS

DEEPEST SYMPATHY ELLIOTTS DEATH INCALCULABLE LOSS TO US ALL
JOHN H MACCRAKEN



Telephone Your Telegrams to *Postal Telegraph*

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION (18)

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

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Ship Radiogram

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Received at Flatiron Bldg., New York City.

NBH676 36=ALBANY NY 18 356P

1934 SEP 18 PM 4 19

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

DR ROBERT E SPEER, PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF
FOREIGN MISSIONS=156 FIFTH AVE=

RETURNING FROM EXTENDED ABSENCE HAVE JUST LEARNED OF
TERRIBLE BLOW WHICH HAS BEFALLEN YOU STOP I HAD HIGHEST
ADMIRATION AND RESPECT FOR YOUR SON STOP MRS MCCONNELL
JOINS ME IN SENDING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO YOU BOTH=
FRANCIS J MCCONNELL.

1954 SEP 18 PM 4 44

TIME RETURNED

REASON 5 FIFTH EL E N Y

MESSENGER No.

ALGONG IN USE

2904

57

440 Allen St
Lansdowne N.Y.

1861 EAST NINETIETH STREET
CLEVELAND, OHIO

Sept 17/34

Mr Robert G. Lee -

Dear Friend - I don't know
as you will remember me. But my first
husband was Genl K. Shuttlesworth & through
your influence he was, exactly, called in
his case work. I think your brother is
working in Dr. Birds former parlors in this
case is our party in Cleveland - I have
been terribly shocked to read of the tragic
death of your son and cannot believe

days go by without expressing my
deepest sympathy. I know what
your problem is - and these things
we can't understand - Forging this
is not an intrusion - at this time

Yours Sincerely

Arthur E. McLean

1 Mrs William G)

With deepest sympathies



Mrs. P. Bryson Millikin

Ambler.

579

WILLIAM B. MOUNT
1817 RANSTEAD STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Dear Robert:

During these days,
our hearts are all going out
to you, and your wife and
family. It is only in the
Spirit that we can be with
you, but dear Robert we are
keeping ^{you} all in our hearts.

May God be with you, even
more than ever before

With Sincere Sympathy
and affection

Billy Mount.

527

The Maule

Box Hill.

Sept 18th 1934

Dear Dr & Mrs Spear.

What can we say? You
know how deeply we feel - & how
our sympathy & prayers are with you
& for you in your tragic & terrible sorrow
& loss.

Yours affectionately

- Arthur & Mrs Maule

67

Rev. William L. McEwan, D. D.
906 South Negley Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Box 449
Madison Pa

Sept 15, 1934

Dear Robert:

In your hour of sorrow, I wish to be close to you in spirit, and my love and prayers are stirred for you. The multitude of those who love you and pray for you at this time will be one of the manifestations and means of our Father's grace.

May Heaven be more real and precious to you because your boy awaits you.

with affection

Your friend

William L. McEwan

Wm. Dan. McLaughlin luth



“He
Leadeth
Me”

“In pastures green?” Not always—
Sometimes, He who knoweth best,
In kindness leadeth me in weary ways,
Where heavy shadows lie:
Out of the sunshine warm, and soft and bright,
Out of the sunshine into darkest night,
I oft would faint with terror and affright
Only for this—I know He holds my hand:
So whether led in green or desert land,
I trust, altho’ I cannot understand.

“And by still waters?” No, not always so,
Oftimes the heavy tempests round me blow,
And o’er my soul the waves and billows go.
But when the storm beats loudest
And I cry aloud for help, my Master
Standeth by and whispers to my soul,
“Lo, it is I.”

Above the tempest wild I hear Him say:
“Beyond the darkness lies the perfect day,
In every path of thine I lead the way.”

So whether in the hill tops high and fair I dwell
Or in the sunless valleys where the
Shadows lie—what matter?
He is there—and more than this—
Where e’er the pathway lead—
He gives to me no helpless broken reed,
But His own hand sufficient for my need;
So where He leads me I can safely go—
And in the blest hereafter I shall know,
Why in His wisdom He has led me so.

57

MRS. STANLEY F. MORSE
MOSSMERE
WEST FALMOUTH, MASS.

Dear Dr. Spess.

I just want to add
my word to those of countless
others, in expressing my sympathy
to you in the loss of your son.
The days of long ago in Northfield
when you and Dr. Mott encouraged
Miss Cutler and me to go into
the girls boarding school to
interest them in the Young Woman
Conferences, are still very vivid
memories. Also your help in

interesting, the people in my town
Church in Albany in supporting
their own Missionary -

I do grieve that such sorrow
and loss have come to you. But
I trust that the fine work Mr.
Spencer had started in Northfield
he will still carry on with
enlarged vision and greater
power. And that must be
your comfort.

With-kind regards

Sincerely

Hyatt Howard

Worcester

September 23 -

ms 67



Hotel Henry

CABLE ADDRESS "HENRY"
PITTSBURGH, PA.
P. O. BOX 129

GEORGE S. LEHNER
GENERAL MANAGER

September 16, 1954.

Dear Dr. Speer:

I did not know Elliott, but everything I ever heard about him was good. Yesterday and today the testimony of those who did know him has been that their love and admiration for you and their high regard for him have made his passing doubly tragic.

We have been meeting here as a group of national

leaders of young people
to shape up the "Christian
Youth Building a New World"
movement. I could not
escape the feeling that even
as we met there was
taken from among us
one of the strongest of our
brotherhood - making
heavier by so much the
load of each of us.

My sincerest sympathy
goes out to you and Mrs.
Geer and to the bereaved
family. May the sufficiency
of Jesus Christ be to you
the greatest reality in this
whole experience.

Yours in His service,

Franklin Mack

Dear Mr. Speer -

You and your afflicted family are in the thought and prayers of the great circle of those who love you and are your debtors because of lives enriched by your fellowship and messages. The shocking news of your son's pitious death stirs the heart into tenderest desire that you and yours may know in needed measure the promised support and comfort of Him Who is a very present help in trouble. Bear acript for yourself and convey to those who suffer with you my sincerest sympathy.

Your friend,

John McLaughlin

Pittsburgh

16th Sept. 1934

57

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Spear:

What can I say to such courageous souls as you in this hour of crushing sorrow? I do offer you my loving sympathy and prayers, in which Mr. Martine joins.

Very sincerely yours,
September 16, 1934. S. Marcella Martine.

617

The Manor
Galloway, Ohio

Sept 15. 1934.

My dear Dr. Speer.

Please allow me to
express my deepest personal sorrow
at your loss. That God may
give you strength to endure is
my Earnest prayer.

Fraternally

Francis James Welyard

57

150 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

Sept 17. 34

Dear Dr. Speer

I have never forgotten
the helpful note of

sympathy which you
wrote when my mother
passed on several years
ago. I only wish I

could say some word
which would help lift
the weight of sorrow

surging about you and
the other members of the
family. I expect

that word can be

150 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

2

best said by an
assurance of our
Very deep sympathy
and our earnest prayers
for your comfort

I am wondering if
it is a comfort or
otherwise to you that
the tragedy occurred
at our beloved Northfield

Most sincerely yours

W. P. Tuttle

57

Upper Marlboro, D. C.
September 15/34

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Spear:

You have been in my thoughts all day - and we at "56" have done little else but enter into your sorrow.

Such a tragedy! To be snatched off so quickly and in such a way -

Dr. McAfee called a special prayer meeting this morning

and for a half hour we
took you and yours to the One
who knew all about the sorrow
and the why of it.

It was such a very beautiful
service I wish you both could
have heard it -

"Unknowingly are the everlasting
ours".

"His power over you is Love."

"We share each other's woes
Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear."

Dr. McFarri's beautiful hymn
"Near to the heart of God"

Your tears are one big family
and when one member suffers -
all the others suffer too.

We tear not now - but we shall

hence hereafter =

My loving sympathy
comes to you both

Your friend

Jessie McMillan

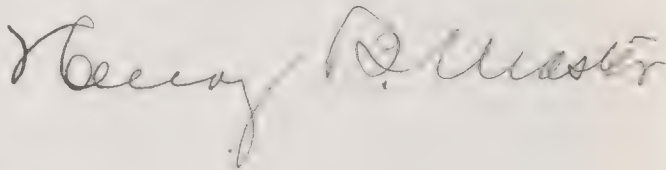
057
WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

September fifteenth,
1 9 3 4.

My dear Robert:

I have just heard, from what seems to be an authoritative source, of the terrible loss that has come to you. How true it is that the heart knows its own grief and a stranger, yes, and even very close friends, may not meddle therewith. And I do not, in these earlier hours of what must be your very great grief, want to do more than say that I hope that that comfort and grace which you yourself have brought to so many, may be your own in large measure in these days.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Board of Foreign Missions,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

(17)

97 Summit Ave
Montclair N. J.

my dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer,
Dr. Macmillan and I wish
to express to you and your
son's family our deep and
most affectionate sympathy
in your great sorrow.

Sincerely

Elizabeth C. Macmillan

Evanston Ill. Sept. 17. 34
or My dear Robert & Mrs Spar
— I have just read
in the Chicago Tribune the
account of Elliot's sad
death. We did not know
Elliot personally, but
we do know his parents
& we hasten to extend to
you our love & deep
sympathy —

Zeno's death surely
prepared our hearts for
fuller sympathy with
the sorrowing, than we
otherwise could have had
— If life ends at
the grave cases like that
of Elliot are inapplicable. — But if there
is service after death —

②

And death is simply a
promotion - Then the 'going
up' of able young men
& women - seems entirely
applicable - even natural -
- But this letter
is not written as an
explanation - of a difficult
problem - - but as a
word of true sympathy
and love - from those who
have known & loved you
more than forty years -
- from those who are
still grateful for the
help and encouragement you
gave to our son, while
he was a student at
Princeton -

May the God of all

(3)

Comfort. Comfort you
and all of yours. Now
Affectionately & Cordially
Mr & Mrs J. Albert Miller

My dear friends:-

My mother asks me to tell you for her, and I speak for myself to say - that we are among those who call upon God in your behalf. We are wishing to do for you what we cannot do, but we know and we know that you know the old and the only way for the stricken children of God. That is the way you are going we know, and in our hearts we follow you with our love and deepest sympathy.

Faithfully yours
 Jean K Macleuzie

196
12 WEST 12TH STREET
NEW YORK

My dear Dr Spurr,

I think you know how
desperately helpless I feel as I
write. But I must tell you —
even if you know it already — how
deeply grieved I am. How can
I dare to say that I sympathize —
when this tragic loss of your
son is far beyond anything I have
ever been called upon to experience.
But when — being thoughtful of
your wife & your self & your dear
daughter — how I must declare,
if only that I may see you more as-
suredly, no matter how imperfectly
or dimly, of your friends' deep
attachment to you. There was

nothing but deep sincerity in the
many expressions of sorrow which I
hear from the lips of our people
in Church yesterday.

God bless and comfort
you.

Affectionately yours

J. M. [Signature]

Sept 17

1934

57

ARTHUR BURD McCORMICK, D. D. :- 113 REED ST. :- OIL CITY, PA.

Dear Doctor Speer:

Mrs. McCormick and I are
much exercised over the sorrow
that has descended out of the
blue on you and Mrs. Speer.

We wish we could find words
to comfort you. All we
can do is to tell you of
our deep sympathy. You
know into the secret

place of Christ's peace and
you have found it. But
you need n- to assured that
your friends care.

Please do not burden h-
answers - for your mail
will be heavy. We shall
understand.

Sincerely yours
A. M. Linnier

Dr. & Mrs. R. E. Spear
New York

Sept. 18, 1934

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

WESTERN UNION

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
 NM = Night Message
 NL = Night Letter
 LCO = Deferred Cable
 NLT = Cable Letter
 WLT = Week-End Letter

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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NG62 10=PLAINFIELD NJ SEP 15 942A

DR AND MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

LAKEVILLE CONN=

OUR HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO YOU BOTH IN YOUR DEEP SORROW=

:MARY LOUISE AND MARGARET MEAD.

949A.

282

TELEPHONE No.
 TELEPHONED TO *Miss Home*
 TIME *9:51a*
 BY *J* TO BE *J*
 ACCEPTS }
 DELIVER }

ack. 6/19/95 Oct. 15

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

1201-S

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WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

NBL72 9=SCHENECTADY NY SEP 17 403P

MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

LAKEVILLE CONN=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

MY LOVING SYMPATHY AND CONSTANT PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU=
MILDRED MARCH.

420P.

*ack.
Ways,
Sept 15*

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

ack.

Gold Farm,

Sept. 17, 1934

Dear Mrs. Speer,

May I

add a word to the many
that must be coming to
you? Since the news
reached us, you and
your family have been
almost constantly in
our thoughts and prayers.

It was our
privilege to spend an
hour, this summer,
with your son Elliot,
at Northfield, and
that brief time made
as deep an impression of
his beautiful spirit
and personality. We
can dimly sense
your love. For our-
selves, there is also

the inspiration
that such a life
so richly gives.

We shall pray
always for peace
and comfort and
serenity in this
great sorrow, for
you and Mr. Spurr
and all those so
intimately concerned.
Most sincerely,

Henry and Rose McKim

MISS CLARA MCMURTRIE
HUNTINGDON
PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Robie -

Destroy the enclosed
letters after reading. So many
people ~~and~~ have written and
have expressed their sympathy
for all who are suffering from
this terrible blow. I feel
Emma, Holly and you have a
burden of sorrow so much
greater than any of us - that
I feel - if I could only be a
use bit of help - even long as
I do to help - I should be glad -
Mrs Davis died last Sunday (Mornings

seems pretty well and contented
I am so glad you are coming
to us in Oct. and I shall
try to make you have a peace-
ful, restful time.

Don't try to answer this, I am
thinking ^{of} and loving you and
just send a bit of love - but
it does not seem to take your
time and strength to answer.

Much love to Emma and your
dear boy

Affectionately

Aunt Clara

Sept 27. '34

As there was no way of Mrs
McCormick's getting here - My &
I went over to Danville for her -
Coming home she said - "I am
an old woman and of no use
in the world - Why could not I
have been taken and that young
useful life be left?" I had
heard this from others - but we
cannot manage these things
which we may be glad we cannot.

I know how hard it is to go
on when the world is so changed
and I know how you suffer -
Dorothy telephoned me, said
she had written you twice, she

MISS CLARA MCMURTRIE
HUNTINGDON
PENNSYLVANIA

Dearest Robin: -

If I only knew some
thing I could do or say that
would keep you the least little
bit in this terrible form.

I hope the creature who has
brought this sorrow upon so
many - will be found insane -
It is hard to think any right
minded person - in this age -
could have done such a terribly
wicked thing to a poor and
innocent man. But - it has
been done and I know you and

many others are suffering.
I thought Miss & I could not
have been of any help to you
and possibly a hindrance
had we gone to England.

I know your help & comfort
comes from the love you have
and love ^{you} and you love Him.
but from my heart I long to
help you. Who is the one -
dearest on earth to me.

With a heart full of love and
sympathy. Affectionately
Aunt Clara

Sept 19. '34.

My very dear Clara:

Was shocked to read in
last night's paper of the
terrible sorrow, which has
come to you and yours!

Why should our beloved
"Hot Spew" and family
have to taste of such a
tragedy!

Please give to

Certainly the Speers - those
adorable people didn't need
any disciplining.

Write me when you can -
I shall anxiously read the
papers to hear more about
this tragedy. Best love -

Sunday.

Patience
Lanier

Thru all my love and
deepest sympathy - that
is all anyone can do.

My I. a lovely old
woman, who is no good
to anyone, be left and
a beautiful, useful life
like Corbett's spirit be
taken! It is too much
for me to work out.

Saturday Evening

Dearest Clara.

I have just this minute read in this evening's paper about the tragic death of Elliott Spear. Would jail me to express my feeling and deep sympathy for each one of the Spear family, of course, you are one of them. Ah! I can't help but wonder why it was God's will to take such a good fine young man and so useful,

for him to do to take him
grow us.

Please share this note with
dear Mieg. I am too miserable
with a bad cold and gall
bladder to write another letter.
I know she will understand.

Adeline joins me in deepest
sympathy and warmest love
to both.

yours as ever
Dad

grow us, one who was doing
such marvelous work for Him
and humanity. I have always
been deeply interested in his
work and watched its great
progress under his supervision.

There is no work appeals to
me more than giving young
men and women an education
who have had no chance and
oh! how marvelously Elliott did
carry out that work. I wonder
what special work God had

Haddonfield Nj

My dear Dr Speer:

Along with the multitude of your friends thru out the country we were deeply shocked and grieved at the word of the great and sudden loss that has come to you and yours. We wish to assure you of our deepest sympathy and our remembrance of you both and Elliott's dear family. How keenly we appreciate what a heavy blow this is to you!

We have so often spoken of your unfailingly expressed sympathy to any of our circle when word has been sent to the field of a loss in one of our homes and have always so appreciated your thoughtfulness. Of our words our ineffective in such a time of

sorrow, we know well that God
our Father knows and He cares.
May His abundant mercy and
rich blessing be felt by you in
a measure commensurate
with the greatness of your
need, and may He keep and su-
stain you in these heavy trying
days.

I so well remember
the manliness of the young
lad Elliotts went with us
during our first visit to your
home in 1910 out to see the Pali-
sade I think it was, his blue
suit and white collar, his inter-
est in all that group of grown
ups. His has been a life rich
in service to other youths, and
his influence will continue to
help and be felt in many a life.

Affectionately yours
Laura + Hugo Muller.

57

September 20, 1934

Our dear Mr. and Mrs. Speer,

In these two weeks since the deplorable and cruel death of your son, Elliott, you two and his family have been very much on our hearts and minds. We have been remembering you in our prayers and a special service of prayer for you was held by the missionary group here. You are surely aware of the deep affection which people in this land and throughout the world have for you, and their love and sympathy pouring out at this time of grief must be a source of comfort and strength to you all. We yearn to be of some tangible comfort but human aid is utterly inadequate, and so we plead at the throne of Grace that the

Father may bear you up and sustain you and supply your every need. You have been carrying such a crushing load in the past two years with the criticisms of the Board and the financial heart-aches, and now to have this personal loss added to that makes the burden most unbearable, but we have the assurance through His precious promises that no burden is so great but what there is grace and strength sufficient to bear it. We shall continue remembering you in a special way, as well as the lonely wife and the little children.

most affectionately

Eleanor ~~and~~ Mervel Marker

67

1 LESTER PLACE
WHITE PLAINS
NEW YORK

Oct. 1, 1934

My dear A. Speer:

Our message of affection and concern for you and Mrs. Speer in this great affliction that has come to you has been delayed because we knew many would be sending theirs at once. Day by day we have remembered you both. We pray that the good Father may be bearing you up and that your consciousness of His tenderness and care may be most keen and

1 LESTER PLACE
WHITE PLAINS
NEW YORK

Comforting.

I am sure there are great numbers of friends and admirers from whom you may never hear directly whose prayers and loving thought has been directed to God for your comfort and sustaining.

With them, our hearts are warm with yearning that we might help to lighten the darkness. We would if we could join our faith with yours in the goodness of God and His infinite care.

Sincerely

Marion U. V. Lee & B. Cross

57

Wm. A. Miller
MRS. F. OTTO MULLER
400 WASHINGTON AVENUE
HADDONFIELD, NEW JERSEY

Sept. 28, 1937.

Dear Dr. Speer,-

Laura wrote to you in my name during my absence from home, to let you know how deeply we are grieving with you in the appalling death of Elliot, but I cannot refrain from adding my personal word.

One would think that the burdens you have been bearing were heavy enough without this crushing blow in addition. May that Heavenly Father Whom you have made real to the hearts and minds

of thousands, stand by you in this
hour of trial, and be a comfort to
you in proportion to the greatness of
your sorrow and to the greatness of
His love.

Very affectionately yours,

Hugo.

SPRING 7-2132

57

20 WASHINGTON SQUARE, NORTH
NEW YORK

September 28, 1934

My dear dear Dr. and Mrs. Ppeer:

As is true of all of my friends my heart goes out to you in affectionate and tender sympathy in the sorrow which has come to you in so tragic a way. We must believe that the sacrifice of a life so full of promise of useful service may in ways we cannot understand become part of a larger purpose dark as is to ascertain that helps one man present vision.

Your steady as true and courage are in themselves

intenses to all. At rest for.
All that we can do is to
test you, as perhaps we do
not do enough in ordinary
times, of our devoted affection,
of the way in which you live
strengthen and help to steady
ours, of the abiding friendship
for J- which enriches our
other relationships because of
the quality of regard which J-
unconsciously calls forth, and
of our confidence that
strength and serenity will
be yours in this great trial.

I knew less. Speer's diste
Dutty is to Y. M. C. A. during
war times and recall her

fine personality well, and
while I have met Mr. and
Mrs. Miles only once or twice,
send my sincere sympathy to
to facing group.

I am so glad to hear of
you. Try to Board some
for time to time. Everyone there
is most kind in answering
inquiries.

With affectionate sympathy
to you both, believe me,

Always sincerely yours,

Helene Clark Miller

07

SHADOW LAWN
LITCHFIELD, CONNECTICUT

Dear Doctor and Mrs Speer:-

There are tragedies in life so
overwhelmingly sad that the voice cannot
find words to express its sorrow and
the heart is so stunned that it cannot
express its sympathy in fullest measure.

We can only tell you that we are
one with you in these dark days — there
is only One who can comfort and He is
with you now.

Mrs Menckhelle joins me in sin-
cerest sympathy.

H. F. Menckhelle

September 19, 1934

57

449 Park Avenue
New York

Dear Mr and Mrs. Spru,
The news of Elliotts tragic
death reached us in our Swiss
Wednesday, and our thoughts
have been with you constantly
and our deepest sympathy,
and our prayers - that in
the valley of the shadow
you may know the
strength of Gods sustaining
power in a very special way.
Our hearts ache for you but

rejoice in the thought of a son
- who - lived such a noble life
and contributed so positively
and constructively in building
up the lives of others.

We just want you to
know of our love and our
truest sympathy and that
we are praying for you.

Please give our sympathy
to Bill too.

Affectionately,

Alice R. J. Morris.

September 20th

MUSEUM 7512.

ack. 9/28/34. cert. 1/12/35

Y. W. C. A. CENTRAL CLUB,
GREAT RUSSELL STREET,
W. C. 1.

Sep: 28 '34

Dear Mrs. Speer,

I have always meant to thank
you for your kind note of farewell
& the little poem you enclosed with
it. I enjoyed them both so much.
Now, the tragic news of your sudden
loss makes me feel I must just
add my very real sympathy &
distress to the many many other

expressions of sorrow which must
be reaching you! I had a note from
Patty Barbour telling me all she
knew of the accident & it seems
quite inscrutable. It makes me
feel that the law concerning fire-
arms needs strengthening when
some one of such value to the
Community & to Christianity can
be at the mercy of a fanatic! But
all over the world there are too
many firearms now!

With the sincerest sympathy

Yours affectionately
Joseph H. Moore

Good
D.P. (x)

156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

Sept 13, 1935.

My dear Dr & Mrs Spear,

Mr. Gachet & I
have been very much with
you during this week, having
constantly before us the
merging within its bounds of
two unforgettable days, one
a memory of gladness, one

of sadness. In your sadness &
gladness you are equally
dear to us and others.

Amid the approaching Autumn
love lines, with its subdued
tones, may the "shade
of His hand" be your
lover as past and
present blend in your
mind.

What a joy were
those days at Lakeville

less - much!

All is ready for the
Board meeting on Tuesday.

Lovingly yours
as both to you both

Ever affectionately

John C. Wesley,



HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA
NEW YORK

Hand
ad 5-

My dear Bobby,

Our hearts go out to
you & yours in most loving sympathy
& we are in almost continuous
prayer for you as our thoughts
constantly return to you in this
time of overwhelming sorrow.

Mrs Speer & you know so well
where to turn for the needed strength
& trust & faith that we are assured
you will find them & in richest measure.

This note is therefore only to
assure you again of our deep

affection & profound concern &
a token of our very long & never
broken friendship with all this
friendship means in an hour
like this.

Mrs Mudge wishes to send a
special message of affection to
Mrs Spear & Mrs Elliott Spear.

Ever affectionately yours

Few

September the sixteenth



ack,

150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My very great sympathy
to dear Mrs. Spear in her
great sorrow.

Eva B. A. Macmillan

15 September 1934

946.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
MANHATTAN INDUSTRIAL HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
127 EAST 22ND STREET
NEW YORK

Dear Mr. Peers,

We can hardly hope to say
one word of comfort to you,
but we do want you
to know that your many
friends at the Manhattan
Industrial School are feeling
a deep, deep sympathy for
you and Dr. Peers, in this
time of your great sorrow.

Faithfully yours,
Ernest H. Merrill

Sept 17, 34

1906

In
Sympathy



Turn
over



May the heartfelt sympathy
that this brings to you
in your sorrow
help to sustain and comfort you.

From
Fannie
745 Battie, M C Coy
and

Linn
River

ackd.

210 East 77th Street



September 20th 1934

Dear Dear Friend,

I cannot find words to express my feelings as we face this inexplicable tragedy, but Anna and I want you to know that our love, our deepest sympathy and our earnest prayers surround you and your family-

Affectionately
Your devoted friend
Anna Alexander Wurtland

507

2721 Forest Avenue,
Berkeley, California,
Oct. 15-1934.

Dr. Robt. E. Speer.
156 Fifth Ave., N. Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:

Weeks have passed since the tragic news of your son's death reached us, and all the world over the radio, and yet no letter has come from us.

I can assure you that it has not been because we have not deeply sympathized, for we have, but Mr. Marshall has for the past weeks been

having a very painful time with his right eye, in which a corneal ulcer developed.

We feared for days, that he might lose the eye in spite of the best efforts of a specialist, but now we are greatly relieved to see it healing day by day.

Dear Dr. Spear, I want to assure you that our hearts have gone out to you and all the sadly bereaved members of your family and that we too have been commending you all most tenderly

and earnestly to "the God of
all comfort." I am sure
that He is your solace in
such a time as this.

You may be assured that
a great host of Christian
friends in all parts of the
world are truly sharing
your sorrow, and bearing
you and yours up in
prayer.

We all wonder, whether
or not, there is yet any
clue as to who committed
the crime.

Dear Dr. Speer, may the

Comforter, himself give
you his own peace in
this dark hour of sorrow,

Yours in tenderest sympathy

Mary Stewart Marshall

so many times my photo have
been with you.

"There is nothing I can give you
which you have not got, but
there is ⁱⁿ grace, my dear, that,
while I can not give it, you can take
it. There is reliance and glory
in the labors, could we but see."

I believe you can see, and
take. Our Father helping you.

Sincerely
Martha N. Maynard
1854.

HILLREST
POTTSTOWN
PENNSYLVANIA

Sunday
Oct. 7, 1934.

Dear, dear Emma: I don't need to tell you that through all these days since your great sorrow fell so suddenly upon you and your dear ones, that my thoughts have been constantly of you, and my prayers rising to the God of all Comfort for your strength to carry on, day after day. I need not pray for your faith and courage. They are always your abiding possession. I have not written before, because I realize how you have been almost overwhelmed by the vast number of letters from your very large circle of friends and acquaintances, and even now I hesitate to write, but my heart is so overflowing with deep, unutterable love and sympathy for you and Rob and Holly, in this the first tragedy that has cast its heavy shadow upon your lives, that I cannot keep

silent any longer.

I used to be troubled over the story of Christ's blasting the fig tree, which had so perfectly fulfilled the law of its blossoming and fruitage - until one day, when I most needed the lesson ^{which} this incident seemed to reveal to me, new lights was thrown upon this act of our Lord. It seemed to me that perhaps as Christ took a little child and stood it in the midst of his disciples, to illustrate by a living symbol, the great lesson of humility, so here he revealed in another symbol, the fact that there are mysterious providences for which there is no answer save the one to give his friends - "Have faith in God."

And surely Elliott's tragic death is one such instance - He had fulfilled his being as a child of God and a follower of Christ; he was bearing fruit in the Lord's Vineyard, and as son, father and husband was reaping the harvest of God, when suddenly

HILLREST
POTTSTOWN
PENNSYLVANIA

the noble, useful, righteous life is cut off - as far
as human life is concerned. Then we ask
in the face of such a mystery: "Why" - and
"what does it all mean"? There is no answer
save Christ - "Have faith in God" - for
surely "only He can work out His purpose through
this dark mystery." But you when our souls
are guided with this victory "which overcometh
the world", what anguish pierces our hearts,
according to the measure of our love, at one feels
all that such a tragic sorrow brings! Thousands
and thousands of true hearts, all over the world
dearest Emma, are lifting you in their love
and prayers to the Throne of Grace and I know
you are feeling the power of this divine
sympathy, almost wondering sometimes at
the marvellous sustaining strength that is yours

heavily for him. You have the living to think of -
Edith's heritage to your loving heart. And
perhaps too you find comfort in thinking
of him, in the heavenly life, with new
and even larger tasks to do, for which he
prepared himself so faithfully here
below.

It was my plan to make a
selection from my anthology of poems on Death
and Immortality, and have them typed in
a booklet for you - I have now four
hundred now. Instead I have decided
that you select those you especially like
from some I have chosen as possibly having
some comfort for you, or voicing your individual
sorrow. Read one or two each night, and
make your choice as leisurely as you will.

I have never met Hally - Would you
mind reading through those I have selected

Ansar
E 198

50-17-102



Mrs. Robert E. Spur

Lakewood

Conn.

*24 Gramercy Park
New York*

Thanks for
Prayer
help. Love
Mary G. M.
Trinity
parent
of whom
G. S. Gardner

MRS. CLELAND B. Mc AFEE
39 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

Sept. 21, 1934

My dear Mr. Beer:

I have longed
to write you every
day and almost
every hour. But I
felt so utterly
powerless to express
what was in my
heart, that I have
not done so.

I have prayed
for every blessing
I see, for the

held from God, who
alone sustained
the souls of the poor
needs. Such lost of
succeeded are breaking
for ever to all souls
from heaven that I
believe this device
will must be given
to see. Presently
speaking, there is
nothing we can say!
All eyes Christian like
& experience is but to
the test by such an
utterly exposing fact

As I will be now and
then. It has been a
constant cause for
pension for well but
you I will be now
the need of you
and for the sake of
are to understand
that you will give
down to the
best of their
best which will be
can give.

It has been a real
conquest to travel and
travel, not leaving
one individual with you
all in God's loving care.

It has been a
comfort to ask
God to guide
me in the
efforts I have made
to try to make
everything as
easy for you as
possible. When you
can take up ^{in the church} your
work again, I
will find it
atmosphere of
love & sympathy
surrounding you

MRS. CLELAND B. Mc AFEE
39 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

2

When you do
believe that will
be a real help
I am sure. I have
never seen such
a sincere and
heartfelt sympathy
as is evinced in
every body who
hears of you & of
your - and Mrs. Green
and the precious
children. Dr. McFarland

Said on Sam - There is
just one shot at our
hearts this morning
as we think together.
What is a soul, one
dead friend, who have
suffered so deeply
in the tragedy of
his race. But he said,
I'll give in to the
thought of the morning
and when he searched
+ pondered himself
"I am come by
then might have let
Love + mercy abundantly."
Thought how difficult
life would be to

A line - I do this
only because
since being Real
to be started as
soon as can be.
Remember words
no one will
expect anything
from you - I will
appreciate every
word from you
about the work which
you do. It must
be so hard to
think of so important.
Anything I can do
for you, will be a
joy to me to attempt.

MRS. CLELAND B. McAFEE
39 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

3 -

I will pray to
be guided in
everything I do,
so that you will
not be involved
in any mistakes
and for ever
more, the dear
Lord will guide
us all I believe.

It is simply
deceiving to me
that in so short

I think I apparently
in an easy &
word - use secret
lot too, because
led into the
very thing we
have prayed for.
It is because you
have led us all
into a spirit of
recovered desire
for spiritual growth.
God be thanked for his
richness, yours this
past year, gratefully
Harriet B. May

"

I have been tried,
Tried in the fire,
But I say this,
As the result of dire distress,
And tribulation sore -
That a man's happiness doth
not consist

Of not he hath, but of the love
And trust in God's just love.
These bring him to,
Nought else is worth consideration,
For the peace a man may find
In perfect trust is but
Outweigh all else, and is
The only possible foundation
for true happiness.

John Spenser

1777

Lord here am I, my three score,
Years & ten
All counted to the keel!
Dive fought my sweat,
Crossed thy lone oceans;
Scaled thy rock's harsh heights;
Bore all the burdens
Thou hast lay on man
With heart unshrinking,
Three score years & ten!
Before thee now, I make
My claim, O Lord!
What shall I pray thee - as I need, reward,
I ask for nothing! Let the balance fall!
All that I am, or know or may confess
But swell the weight of my
indebtedness;
Burdens & sorrows slight, transfigured
all,
Thy Redeemer's noble buffet turns to a
cress
For love, with all the rest thou
gavest me, here.
All love is scarce's own atmosphere.
Nihil-tur Jordan. en nis 7th March 1911.

write again
just over your

Let me know
"The little Pilgrim"

My dear Mrs. Spurr

Twice we tried to write you. The first time I stopped because of my own sense of loss. I wanted to list one of my friends. She wrote me such a fine letter last spring. - The next time I failed because there were no words - at least I could find none. So I stopped.

Then I reached up and took the little book you gave me - "Lord, teach us to pray" I was reading Chapter your "Thoughts & Prayers" you said there. "Things" lose their power over us; we are able to own them instead of being owned by them." I put my own interpretation on "Things" and substituted the word "Emotions". Perhaps that was not right but immediately you I saw you going on with firm step. Trusting, even though you might not understand because you had "learned the laws of the spirit".

to a gain within the year, in a
matter which, ^{again} comes - now to me. (Little thought
was in my own mind as a few days ago
looking at pictures of my children) I feel
I will never attempt to philosophize, and
will just try to keep step with you.

I know your source of strength, and
I also know that you know how
to draw upon it.

May I have not myself recovery
of your own friends at this time

Yours truly

A. B. C. C. C.

Hedgecroft, N.Y.

Sept. 15, 1934

September 18th '34
DEACON BROWN'S POINT
NORTH HAVEN
MAINE

Dear dear Emma, -

You have had my prayers
since that appalling news.
You and Rob and that young
wife - so suddenly left alone.
A crime without reason -
oh that is so intolerable!
It has made me live over
again those first-terrible days
at Hopewell - and the agonized
effort - to understand how

introduce her fiancée to her

But - I think of him as your dear
son and my heart aches for you.

Dear Emma - so much love -

Betty.

Don't answer or acknowledge in
any way - please. I know the
burden letters can be. This is written
because I can't help it.

such things can be. The
framework of this world is
so flimsy - where life can go
in a moment - surely the
other must be enduring and
glorious. You must be proud
of what Eliot has done -
his high resolve - his splendid
record in those short thirty five
years. I can think of him
only as very young and
happy - the last time I
talked with him was at Frances
Pomeroy's - He had come to

J M^cC

Answered
1899 Oct. 6

Lakesville
Connecticut

My dear Mrs. Speer.

17 September

The tragedy which has come to
you and Mr. Speer so near Mrs. M^r Chesney
and me that we cannot find words to
express our grief - & sympathy. We have

both of you and your poor family constantly
in our minds and assure you all of our
deepest sympathy.

Very sincerely,
Wm. H. Chesney

2/11/1

September 24th, 1934.

My dear Mrs. Good:-

When I read of the tragedy to a Mr. Elliott Good, while I was patient in a New York City hospital I kept saying to myself - Surely this does not belong to my dear friend's family - But since my return a few days ago Magazine News inspired my fears.

I know you & Mr. Good have no fault to charge ^{you} through this world - I do not know of any two people, who are so equipped spiritually to meet life's most trying problems of adjustment -

In my morning's devotions I found this

The Scripture for the morning was John 16:33.

"These things have I spoken unto you
that in all your way have peace. In the
world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good
cheer: I have overcome the world".

My dearest love to you & my prayers are
for strength to meet each day.

Respectfully yours,

Mrs. B. H. McClinton

Lines from William Vaughn Moody's -

"Of wariness & fear

I made my shouting spear;
Gloss, and doubt, and trial,
And swift oncoming doom
I made a helmet for my head
And a floating plume.

From the shutting mist of death,
From failure of the truth,
I made a battle-horn to blow
Across the vale of our sorrow.

Oh-hearken, loke, the battle-horn!
The triumph clear, the silver horn!
Oh-hearken where the echoes ring
Upon the grey disastrous morn
Laughter & rallying"

Miss

1055 MOREWOOD AVENUE

PITTSBURGH.

April 8th

My dear Mrs Speer

I have so often
thought of you and
Mr Speer this past
winter. But did
not feel I knew you
well enough to write
you.

These few flowers
carry

My deep sympathy
and great admiration
truly yours both
Please tell Mr. Spear
how deeply many of
us regret the unjust
way he is being
treated

Sincerely yours

Mary E. McKee

Mr. Geyer W.

2/22

101 MT. HEBRON ROAD
UPPER MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

My dear Mrs. Speer - Our hearts are
aching for you and Dr. Speer in your
great loss. Elliot looked so well -
so happy when we saw him in North-
field this summer, he was so well
fitted for the great opportunity before
him. There are so few young men
to-day who have the vision he had,
he seems so much needed that it
is hard to understand. We can
only trust his dear Father who
makes no mistakes may you both
be very conscious of his presence &
comfort & bless.

I am enclosing a picture that
Mr. Smith took the morning we had
such a nice call on you in your lovely
home. He is pastor of the Clermont-
Church in Glasgow - anytime you &
Dr. Speer are there they would be so
glad to see you. It was so kind of
you to invite us all for luncheon
on our way down, but we could
not arrange it. As I did not see
you at the Conference, I asked
Dr. Speer to give you the message.

Yours with love & deep sympathy,
Lillie R. McConaughy.

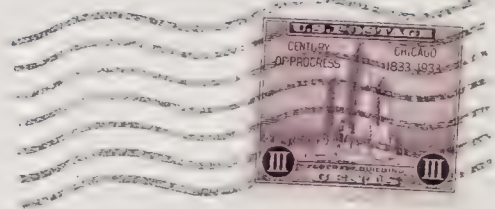
September seventeenth -
1934.

MADE IN U.S.A.
NO. 10

Tracy Veech

Tracy Veech
293 1/2 Mt Lake Road
Tracy Veech's Great Uncle

WILLIAMSBURG
SEP 17
5 30 PM
1984
OHIO



Mr. Robert E. Spear,
~~156 7th Ave~~
Englewood, New Jersey
Rockledge
Lakeville, Conn



ENGLEWOOD
SEP 19
9 30AM
1934
N.J.

20¢
1 AM
SEP 19 1934



29318 West Lake Road
Bay Village, Ohio
September 17th.

Dear Mrs. Speer: May I
tell you of the deep
sympathy which I, and
countless other friends
feel for you and your
family, in the tragic
grief which has recently
come to you? When your
son Elliot was in England

in the interests of
Campaign fund of the
privilege of taking his
appointments which had
of his coming. It was
to stay, but sufficient
happy memory with all
with him at that time.

has come to me from
the two schools, by the
son was making at
your immeasurable to

The Northfield National
two years ago, I had the
pleasure to come of the
of our made by advance
only here for a very brief
long to leave and
who met him, I worked
From time to time reports
students and old friends of
rich contributions of my
Moral Herald of the Seminary
so is also the loss of

a host of those, who
though not so close to
him in ties of blood,
were drawn to him by
bonds of friendship
and service. To you &
to Dr. Speer & to those other
members of his family who
& have not the pleasure of
knowing, I send my deepest
sincerest sympathy. Sincerely yours
(9.25.20 1890)
Arthur C. C. Wood

10/12.

Sept 20th / 34

PAPOOSE ISLAND
CLAYTON
JEFFERSON COUNTY, NEW YORK

My dear Mrs. Spear -
I have not been out
of my thoughts & prayers since
hearing of this great grief which has
come to you & yours. I can find
no words in which to tell you how my
heart goes out to you in bring sympathy.
You are such a wonderful woman &
your husband so fine that you are
better able to bear such a sorrow

that many other people, but I know
the ache at your heart & what you
are suffering for your daughter-in-law
& Grand child here -

God help you. He alone can.
Tell me please the kind you & your
husband his warmest sympathy &
regards.

With my tenderest love dear dear
friend
Affect^{ly} yours
Anna L. Donagan -

ack.

SUNNYSIDE
PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY

My beloved Mrs. Spencer:

Our hearts have been
so full of love and sympathy
for you this past
week that it seemed im-
possible to intrude, even for
a few minutes, with words,
which are so futile in a
time of such terrible
grief.

But I just cannot
stop my tongue from saying

just a wee note of
recognition of my deepest
love and sincere prayers
for you - Dr. Spurr and
all of your wonderful
family -

Warmly & affectionately
your true friend,

Marie Louise Bread

September 21st 1934

Amber
65.5

17 September 34

23 WALL STREET
NEW YORK CITY

Dear Rob

I do not know how to write
you about your sad loss. But I
do want you to feel that Emma and
you and your sons family have our
very deepest affectionate sympathy.
I suppose one should try to
measure life not by its length
but by its quality. You must be
very proud not only of what Elliott
had done but of what he was.

Very affectionately

Kenneth Thompson

Good as 5



Dorset Inn

Dorset, Vermont

"A Real New England Inn"

Amey Ann Lapham, Mgr.

September 19, 1934.

Dear Mr. Spear,

Mrs. W. Collette and I send
to you and Mrs. Spear our heartfelt
sympathy in the terrible tragedy
which has occurred in your family.

Sincerely yours,

Parker W. Collette



GEORGE H. MILNE

New York.

16th September 1934

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Spear -

I came to Lanesville yesterday for the afternoon with the definite purpose in my mind of calling upon you and again thanking you for all your exceptional kindness to me. But when I reached our cottage I found Tom awaiting me with this distressing news of your loss. -

What can I ^{possibly} say to you, in the face of this great sorrow - you, who understand so deeply and whose wisdom & wisdom upon life and death is so far in advance of my own? Only perhaps, that from the depths of my own sorrow, my heart goes out in deepest sympathy to each of you who so helped me, and to the widow and her little ones whom I hear now live, for their suffering is somehow very real to me.

May God comfort you all. -

Most sincerely

Dr. Geo. H. Milne

Lanesville

Connecticut

George H. Milne

211

J. C. MASSEE
A MINISTER OF CHRIST

510 Wellington Ave
Chicago, Ill
Sept. 29. 34

1068 EAST CLIFTON ROAD
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Dear Dr. Spier:

Recent Press accounts of the tragic going of your son. has brought to me, as to multitudes of your friends great distress. My heart has gone out to you. and my prayer has ascended for you.

His first year at Northfield, I was one of the Speakers at the General Conference. I met him and was attracted to him. It is tragic indeed that his young life, had to be surrendered to violence.

Of course, I have no need to point you to the One Comforter. But I would share with your burden - and that of your loved ones.

May God indeed bear you up.

II Cor. 1:3-5.

Your friend
J. C. Massee

Clark, Dodge & Co.
61 Wall Street
New York

Ans

Oct 3, 34

October 2, 1934.

My dear Dr. Speer,

It was a dreadful shock to us all to learn of Elliott's tragic death. I knew Elliott quite well in college, as we had many interests in common and for several seasons rowed together in the Class crew.

I appreciate your prompt attention to the Class Memorial insurance policy, and the information which you sent to me will be very helpful. I am taking the matter up with the people to whom you referred for the statements of claim. I should like to have your assistance on one or two questions on Statement No. 1, which I have filled out. At your convenience, will you please check the items which I have marked with an "x" and return the statement to me for execution.

This policy is deposited with the University.

With deepest sympathy, I remain

Sincerely yours,

David H. Woodruff

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Rockledge,
Lakeville,
Connecticut.

Enclosure

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.
156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

CBM:AMW

September 20, 1934.

TO ALL OUR FELLOW-WORKERS ON THE FIELD

Dear Friends:

We realize that you have been shocked and saddened by the tragic news of the assassination of Rev. Elliott Speer, older son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Speer. Since accounts of the tragedy are so fragmentary in the far-away press it seems wise and kindly to tell you the story so far as it is known and to reassure you of the grace of God which supports those who have experienced the sorrow.

On Friday evening, September 14th, shortly after his return from summer vacation, and before the opening of the Mount Hermon School near East Northfield, Massachusetts, of which he was Headmaster, Rev. Elliott Speer was in his study at his home at about 8:30 in the evening. Some one fired a heavily-loaded shotgun through a window of the study directly at him. Mrs. Speer and the three children were in other parts of the home. She heard the noise and came at once only to find her husband so badly wounded that before other aid could reach the house he passed away.

Dr. Robert E. Speer was at his summer home in Lakeville, Connecticut, on his annual month of vacation which he takes in September. Word was gotten to him at once. His younger son was at home and with Dr. and Mrs. Speer drove to East Northfield where they arrived about four o'clock Saturday morning. Since that time, of course, the American members of the family have been together. By a good providence Mrs. Elliott Speer's father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Welles, were visiting them at the time and were in the house. Other friends arrived quickly but nothing could be done to correct the tragic evil.

A brief funeral service was held in the home at Mount Hermon at four o'clock on Sunday afternoon, September 16th, after which the family came to the family burying-ground at Englewood, New Jersey, for the interment. They then returned to Lakeville, Connecticut, where they will be for the present, going later to Mount Hermon for final adjustments there.

The news reached our offices on Saturday morning, the 15th, and of course influenced all that we did during the day. We closed the offices at 11:30 for a half hour of prayer in the Assembly Room. On Monday, the 17th, the first meeting of the Board for the season occurred, and was naturally under the spell of this great sorrow. It has been difficult to think of anything else. Our papers have given much attention to it.

The crime itself is utterly baffling. There is absolutely no clew thus far to the identity of the assassin or the reason for the crime. Ample marks have been found to indicate that it was deliberate murder, but its cause is a complete mystery. Mr. Speer was held in high and affectionate esteem by his colleagues and his students. Besides being Headmaster of the Mount Hermon School, he was Chairman of the Administrative Committee of The Northfield Schools, which embrace both the Mount Hermon School for boys and the Northfield Seminary for girls, and carried large

responsibilities in many lines. Many suggestions have been offered as to a possible reason for the attack, but investigation shows that each suggestion thus far is unsupported. The police authorities of the State of Massachusetts seem to be giving as thorough care to the matter as could be asked, and friends of the family are doing their utmost to aid in the investigation. It is clear that until some light is thrown on the crime there will be a sense of fear and dread both in the family and among the authorities of the Mount Hermon School. It cannot be known if this was one single crime or if there is some malice or mania which may lead to another. Up to this time there is nothing that points to the perpetrator of the deed or gives any explanation of it. Mr. Speer had prepared his opening address for the new year of the Mount Hermon School and it was read to the boys when the session opened on the 18th. They are deeply moved and grieved by his death.

You need not be told that Dr. Speer and his family, including Mrs. Elliott Speer, are bearing this sorrow as Christians of long and deep experience might bear it. The grace of God has not failed them, and though they are mystified and baffled by it they feel, as Dr. Speer has said, that "the only and adequate light is to think of what God allowed to happen in the life of His own dear Son and to be sure that even out of the deepest evil He can bring good." In our prayer service here in the building accent was laid on Romans 8:28 with its assurance that all things work together for good to them that love God. We sang the little hymn, "Near to the Heart of God," which many of you know was written in an hour of staggering sorrow. We would be utterly orphaned if there were no Father over this tragedy, and yet we are almost stunned when we face it as a fact.

There is a large current of sympathy running to Dr. and Mrs. Speer, the younger son William and Mrs. Elliott Speer and her children, and you may be sure that they are being strengthened by it. Our hearts go out to Dr. Speer's daughters, Miss Margaret Speer at Yenching Woman's College, Peiping, China, and Mrs. Constance Speer Barbour in London, England, whose distance will deepen their distress.

The Board placed on its Minutes this action, though its feelings cannot be put into words:

"The Board responds in personal grief to the sorrow that has befallen its beloved Senior Secretary in the tragic death of his son, the Rev. Elliott Speer, on September 14th. It assures Dr. and Mrs. Speer of its fellowship with them in this difficult hour, commending them to that grace of God to which their long Christian service has accustomed them and which will not now fail them. All the members of the Board would rejoice to find some effective method of manifesting their love and sympathy to the dear friends and the son William in America, to the daughter in China, so closely related to the Board, and to the daughter in England. We have shared in the family's pride in the son and his Christian character and service and we share therefore in the sorrow of this early transfer from his important earthly work to other service, even though we know him to be in safer and wiser hands than ours. Our faith in an overruling love of God and our assurance of His wider purposes which take up into themselves even the wrongs that men do and suffer can alone make this unexplained and ruinous tragedy endurable. Our thoughts include the great force of missionaries from all Churches who will be touched and solemnized by knowledge of the deep valley through which the household, so beloved among them, must go and we join their petition for comfort and peace. The President is requested to convey our expression of affectionate remembrance to Dr.

and Mrs. Speer and also to extend to Mrs. Elliott Speer its profound sympathy in this sudden bereavement.

"The Board desires Dr. Speer to extend his vacation so long as it may seem to him wise in order to secure adequate rest for his service during the coming year and also to minister in any way to the comfort of those who may especially need his care."

We have you much in mind for we realize how deeply your own hearts will be grieved by this inexplicable sorrow which has come to those whom you love as deeply as you do this stricken household.

Sincerely,

Cleland B. McAfee
Irene Sheppard
John A. Mackay
Courtenay H. Fenn
Russell Carter

Am

**THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.
156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK**

CBM:M
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

September 21, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Rockledge
Lakeville, Connecticut.

Dear Robert:

Your letter of the 19th is here and I have passed it on to Miss Connell and she is attending to it. All news of your movements is eagerly awaited here and I am letting the interested group know what your immediate plans are. All of us feel very keenly that it would be eminently desirable for you to extend your vacation time until mid-October at least, or longer if necessary. I have a letter from Lewis Mudge in which the following paragraph occurs:

"I am especially grateful to you for a word with reference to Robert Speer. I earnestly hope that the Board will insist upon his taking a more extended vacation than normally. I warmly agree with you as to his having the grace and the courage to bear this terrible blow, but he is, with all his greatness and goodness, human, and I feel sure he ought to have ample time for recuperation. Doubtless he will feel his great sorrow more as the days go by. I do hope that you will see to it that he is not merely offered an extended vacation but that it is insisted that he shall take it."

This is fairly characteristic of what others are saying. I know how well-sustained you are by the never-failing Arm, but I am sure a little longer time would work the deep peace which you are feeling over into a permanent condition.

I am sorry to miss Will Covert's dinner next week and you will be greatly missed there, but I must be in western Pennsylvania on that day and be back here for Wednesday and Thursday for the meeting of Reference and Counsel.

We are sending to the Missions a very simple letter, giving them as accurately as we can the facts of the tragedy at Mt. Hermon, knowing that the story in the foreign press will be very fragmentary and doubtless very defective. We think of you constantly and always with prayer.

Affectionately,

Cleland B. McAfee

Cleland B. McAfee

CBM:K

**THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.**

156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

September 18, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
"Rockledge"
Lakeville, Connecticut.

My dear Robert:

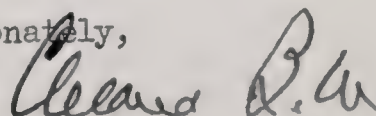
You will be flooded with assurances at this time of the affectionate thought of a multitude of friends and you need no words from me or from any of us here to assure you how constantly you are in our thoughts and what a volume of prayer ascends for you to the only One who can be of real help at this time. We have felt ourselves utterly baffled but have known what our resource of power is and we have commended you to God not only in the little service which we held at eleven-thirty on Saturday but also in every gathering since that time and in our private personal devotions.

Yesterday at the Board Meeting it was impossible to think long of anything else but I believe you will find the spell of the sorrow made all the actions especially careful. When a brief and utterly inadequate minute was adopted, a copy of which Dr. Erdman asks me to enclose, and Robert Russell told us a little of his knowledge of the recent events Mr. James M. Speers led in a beautiful prayer which united the hearts of all the Board members. At the close of the meeting Dr. Foulkes led again in a prayer in which you and Mrs. Speer and especially Mrs. Elliott Speer were tenderly remembered.

I trust you will notice with real care the closing sentence of the minute which I enclose. No one has the slightest feeling that you would break under this experience but no one here have the slightest doubt on the other hand that you have undergone a very terrible strain. All of us feel that this strain ought to be relieved as far as time can do it. We would be glad to adjust everything here and take on any duties possible for us which will allow you to remain a little while longer and breathe in a new strength that the beautiful fall will bring. I have always found comfort in the beauty of fall with its reminder that our Heavenly Father means to make death a beautiful thing to us. If you and Mrs. Speer can remain in the country longer the desire of the Board is very genuine that you should do so. In addition we have felt there may be services to render to Mrs. Elliott Speer and even the Mount Hermon School which would require strength and thus reduce your vacation rest. The Board welcomed this clause with especial earnestness and all of us will be glad to have you take it with great seriousness.

You have doubtless seen the news of the serious accident to James Cushman at Hartford. I wired Harry Luce and he tells me that the injuries are painful but not serious but that Mr. Cushman will be in the Hartford Hospital for several weeks. We have communicated with Mrs. Scott of course and Mr. Lark has gone to Hartford. Mrs. Cushman is due to land on Saturday, coming in on the George Washington, and we will try to have the news ready for her and as favorable as possible.

Affectionately,



Cleland B. McAfee

ENC.

578
First Presbyterian Church
Seattle, Washington

Oct. 1, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

My dear Brother:

Was shocked and grieved at the death of your son. Wired you immediately. Not knowing your address in Massachusetts I sent the telegram to the office and afterwards wrote you.

Have thought of you constantly, grieved with you and for you. I pray for you and the loved ones frequently. Hope I will be able to see you this month that you may tell me more of the disaster. Rest assured I am praying for you, love you, and you have my profound sympathy.

With best regards, I am

Your true friend,

M. A. Matthews

618

1961 N. Vermont Ave
Los Angeles, Calif

October 1, 1934

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Speer:

We have just received the Board Letter of September 20 giving the sad news of the great sorrow that has come to your family in the death of your son Elliott at the hands of an assassin.

We are grieved beyond measure at this incomprehensible visitation that has come to your hitherto unbroken family circle.

At such times we can only commend each other to the God of all comfort and pray to realize as never before that "underneath are the everlasting arms!"

This brief note on behalf of Mrs. Mattox, Luverne and myself is just to assure you of our love and sympathy and prayer in your bereavement.

Yours affectionately,

E. L. Mattox

W. P. M. Oct. 12.

Oxford Pa
Sept-18/34

My dear Emma—

What-can I say to comfort-
you at this time more than
to tell you the whole Christian
world is praying for you and
your dear husband that-you
may be given strength and
courage to go on. I feel Heaven
is a much nearer and dearer
place to both of you since
Elliott is there. I am so glad
to have known him as I did

and a warm loving cheerful Christian
cannot be found. His students adored
him, for his youth gave to him much
the same view-point - older folks
cannot grasp. He has done a noble
work well and I am sure he heard
the Master say "well done" and is happy.

Poor dear Holly is blessed by having
two devoted mothers and Father and the
children will be a great comfort too for
they will demand so much of her thought.

How marvelous to think Mr + Mrs Mills
were with her at the time of the awful
tragedy. My heart is so filled
with sorrow for you - I just - can't -
express myself.

I was at all all day Miss. meeting at a
neighboring Church today and you and yours
were much in minds and hearts all day.

Some day when you are able I hope to
hear from you, and anything I can do, do tell me.

With devoted love and warmest sympathy
Your friend
Lettie

ARNAUD C. MARTS
GEORGE E. LUNDY

ARTHUR W. MOHN
LOUIS W. ROBEY
COL. S. A. MOFFAT
FLOYD C. FREEMAN

ALFRED G. CRAWSHAW
GEORGE H. FONKEN
T. T. FRANKENBERG
HARVEY MAC CAULEY
CHARLES C. MILES
T. S. MORGAN, JR.
FRANK J. RESLER

MARTS & LUNDY

INCORPORATED

521 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

VANDERBILT 3-1241

COLUMBUS OHIO OFFICE
17 NORTH HIGH STREET

ack.
10/24,
Oct. 15

My dear Mrs. Speer:-

I wish I might be able to say a word that would help to comfort you in your great loss. But, whether that is possible or not, it will at least be a comfort to me to drop you this brief appreciation of Elliott.

He was so fine in every way - in mind and heart and personality and friendships. He was so quick to understand and to appreciate another's viewpoint that he and I could often exchange our thoughts without my saying more than the first word of the sentence.

He was so fine-grained in spirit and so true in friendship. No one can take his place in my life. I know you must be happy that you had such a son. I hope you can find the strength and courage to bear his loss.

Sincerely yours,

Arnaud Marts

October 4, 1934

524
THE CANADIAN SCHOOL OF MISSIONS
97 ST. GEORGE STREET
TORONTO

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Sept. 16, 1934

Dear Robert,

I have just seen in a Toronto paper the terrible news about Elliott. It was a bare notice, but the particulars matter little. The fact that the dear lad - I think of him as I last saw him years ago - has suddenly been taken from you is staggering. One can scarcely grasp the reality of it.

His going away means promotion for him, of course, and I know that you and Mrs. Speer are resigned to the temporary separation. But how bruised and aching your hearts must be. All that seems possible for your friends to do is to tell you of their love and sympathy and of their frequent prayers. Mrs. Murray and I wish to offer these assurances to you and Mrs. Speer and Margaret.

Sincerely,

Correll Murray

678

COMMITTEE

REV. C. N. MOORE, D. D., CHAIRMAN
ZELIENOPLE, PA.
GARDNER C. LOWRY, SECRETARY
230 W. PENN ST., BUTLER, PA.
REV. C. H. WILLIAMSON, D. D.
GROVE CITY, PA.
MRS. T. C. STIRLING
MARS, PA.
MRS. JOHN B. GREER
BUTLER, PA.
C. N. BOYD, TREASURER
BOX 606, BUTLER, PA.

NATIONAL MISSIONS

BUTLER PRESBYTERY, U. S. A.

REV. C. C. MILLAR, D. D., PASTOR AT LARGE
212 E. NORTH ST., BUTLER, PA., PHONE 34613

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN WORK

REV. W. O. DAVID, SUPERINTENDENT
220 S. BLUFF ST., PHONE 31729
BUTLER, PA.

COMMUNITY HOUSE, PHONE 30521

WORKERS FOR
LADIES' MISSIONARY SOCIETY
MRS. L. M. YOUNG
221 N. WASHINGTON ST
BUTLER, PA.

MRS. JEAN LEITH
515 W. BRADY ST.
BUTLER, PA.

212 East North Street, Butler, Pa.,
Sept. 18, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Spaw,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear friend:

We have seen by the papers
the news of your great sorrow. May
God comfort and support you and
Mrs. Spaw and the other members
of the family in this trying time.

I pray for you.

Yours truly,

Charles C. Millar.

118

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

September 18 1934

Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Speer
Englewood N. J.

Dear Friends:

This incredibly terrible thing that has broken your hearts has shocked and stabbed the hearts of your friends everywhere as you must know. What word of comfort is there that I can speak that you do not already well know? Let me only say that I sorrow with you and would enter your lives and share the burden that you bear in so far as one may through words of sympathy that seem so feeble and futile at such a time as this. I can be sure that your Christian faith rests upon a philosophy of God and good that will not be shaken even by so devastating an experience as this. May the God of all comfort be with you and your dear ones now and may some foregleams of the glory that is to be revealed be given you even now when it is so greatly needed.

Sincerely Yours
John Milton Moore

018

The Synod of New York
of the
Presbyterian Church

MODERATOR
THE REV. PETER MCKENZIE
STAMFORD, N. Y.

STATED CLERK
THE REV. ROBERT H. NICHOLS
AUBURN, N. Y.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
THE REV. U. L. MACKEY
156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.
TELEPHONE: WATKINS 9-2000

NATIONAL MISSIONS
MR. W. T. COUPER, CHAIRMAN

PROGRAM AND FIELD ACTIVITIES
THE REV. RAYMON KISTLER
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

VACANCY & SUPPLY
THE REV. EDWARD I. CAMPBELL, CHAIRMAN
PLEASANTVILLE, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:-

Will you please admit
me into the fellowship of those
who suffer with you his your
great sorrow - a sorrow so deep
that I am sure no words
can fathom it.

I am faithfully yours
U. L. Mackey

Mailed second class, September 22, 1934
To regular Mission Letter mailing list TELEPHONE WATKINS 9-2000
India, Persia and Syria

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS Also to furloughed
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A. missionaries

156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

CBM:AMW

September 20, 1934.

TO ALL OUR FELLOW-WORKERS ON THE FIELD

Dear Friends:

We realize that you have been shocked and saddened by the tragic news of the assassination of Rev. Elliott Speer, older son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Speer. Since accounts of the tragedy are so fragmentary in the far-away press it seems wise and kindly to tell you the story so far as it is known and to reassure you of the grace of God which supports those who have experienced the sorrow.

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The crime itself is utterly baffling. There is absolutely no clew thus far to the identity of the assassin or the reason for the crime. Ample marks have been found to indicate that it was deliberate murder, but its cause is a complete mystery. Mr. Speer was held in high and affectionate esteem by his colleagues and his students. Besides being Headmaster of the Mount Hermon School, he was Chairman of the Administrative Committee of The Northfield Schools, which embrace both the Mount Hermon School for boys and the Northfield Seminary for girls, and carried large

responsibilities in many lines. Many suggestions have been offered as to a possible reason for the attack, but investigation shows that each suggestion thus far is unsupported. The police authorities of the State of Massachusetts seem to be giving as thorough care to the matter as could be asked, and friends of the family are doing their utmost to aid in the investigation. It is clear that until some light is thrown on the crime there will be a sense of fear and dread both in the family and among the authorities of the Mount Hermon School. It cannot be known if this was one single crime or if there is some malice or mania which may lead to another. Up to this time there is nothing that points to the perpetrator of the deed or gives any explanation of it. Mr. Speer had prepared his opening address for the new year of the Mount Hermon School and it was read to the boys when the session opened on the 18th. They are deeply moved and grieved by his death.

You need not be told that Dr. Speer and his family, including Mrs. Elliott Speer, are bearing this sorrow as Christians of long and deep experience might bear it. The grace of God has not failed them, and though they are mystified and baffled by it they feel, as Dr. Speer has said, that "the only and adequate light is to think of what God allowed to happen in the life of His own dear Son and to be sure that even out of the deepest evil He can bring good." In our prayer service here in the building accent was laid on Romans 8:28 with its assurance that all things work together for good to them that love God. We sang the little hymn, "Near to the Heart of God," which many of you know was written in an hour of staggering sorrow. We would be utterly orphaned if there were no Father over this tragedy, and yet we are almost stunned when we face it as a fact.

There is a large current of sympathy running to Dr. and Mrs. Speer, the younger son William and Mrs. Elliott Speer and her children, and you may be sure that they are being strengthened by it. Our hearts go out to Dr. Speer's daughters, Miss Margaret Speer at Yenching Woman's College, Peiping, China, and Mrs. Constance Speer Barbour in London, England, whose distance will deepen their distress.

The Board placed on its Minutes this action, though its feelings cannot be put into words:

"The Board responds in personal grief to the sorrow that has befallen its beloved Senior Secretary in the tragic death of his son, the Rev. Elliott Speer, on September 14th. It assures Dr. and Mrs. Speer of its fellowship with them in this difficult hour, commending them to that grace of God to which their long Christian service has accustomed them and which will not now fail them. All the members of the Board would rejoice to find some effective method of manifesting their love and sympathy to the dear friends and the son William in America, to the daughter in China, so closely related to the Board, and to the daughter in England. We have shared in the family's pride in the son and his Christian character and service and we share therefore in the sorrow of this early transfer from his important earthly work to other service, even though we know him to be in safer and wiser hands than ours. Our faith in an overruling love of God and our assurance of His wider purposes which take up into themselves even the wrongs that men do and suffer can alone make this unexplained and ruinous tragedy endurable. Our thoughts include the great force of missionaries from all Churches who will be touched and solemnized by knowledge of the deep valley through which the household, so beloved among them, must go and we join their petition for comfort and peace. The President is requested to convey our expression of affectionate remembrance to Dr.

and Mrs. Speer and also to extend to Mrs. Elliott Speer its profound sympathy in this sudden bereavement.

"The Board desires Dr. Speer to extend his vacation so long as it may seem to him wise in order to secure adequate rest for his service during the coming year and also to minister in any way to the comfort of those who may especially need his care."

We have you much in mind for we realize how deeply your own hearts will be grieved by this inexplicable sorrow which has come to those whom you love as deeply as you do this stricken household.

Sincerely,

Cleland B. McAfee
Irene Sheppard
John A. Mackay
Courtenay H. Fenn
Russell Carter

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ARNAUD C. MARTS
GEORGE E. LUNDY
ARTHUR W. MOHN
LOUIS W. ROBEY
COL. S. A. MOFFAT
FLOYD C. FREEMAN

ALFRED G. CRAWSHAW
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FRANK J. RESLER

MARTS & LUNDY

INCORPORATED

521 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

VANDERBILT 3-1241

COLUMBUS OHIO OFFICE
17 NORTH HIGH STREET

Oct 8, 1934

Dear Dr. Speer:-

I shall be very glad to prepare the
reminiscent paper and I thank you for
the privilege of doing so. It will be a bit
of an outlet for the expression of my affection
for Elliott.

I regarded Elliott as the outstanding
Christian educator of his generation and was
anticipating ever increasing usefulness from
his career. He was a son of whom Mrs. Speer
and you can be proud. The tragedy of his
death is, of course, the recollection that is fore-
most in all our minds just now, but back
of that were thirty-five years of noble, high-minded
living which Mrs. Speer and you can treasure
in your minds and hearts.

I shall send my notes to you within
a few days.

Cordially yours.

Arnaud C. Marts

Lake & Minnewaska & Mountain Houses



The Wildmere

The Cliff House

Minnewaska, Ulster County, New York
George H. Smiley & Co., Inc.

September 30th 1934

Dear Dr. Speer,

This is a very brief note to tell you that we are most sympathetic with you in the loss of your son Elliott & we also to express our sympathy for you in the strain you must be undergoing because of the activities of the Independent Board of Foreign Missions.

We have had a foster daughter in Northfield Seminary this past year & she has told us how deservedly popular Elliott was with the boys & others have spoken to us of his fine Christian spirit in the difficult situation in which he had been placed. I feel sure that the supporters of the Independent Board of Foreign Missions are a very small minority although they are most clamant & irritating in the expression of their views & most annoying in their superiority & coarseness. Undoubtedly the Church as a whole is most loyal to you & the Board.

Whatever the Church may think the Mudge family in general & this section in particular still retain the affection & admiration they have always had for you.

Mr Mudge who, you will remember, was Jane Allen of Montclair² are in this glorious spot having a most delightful vacation.

Very sincerely

Fred Mudge

Needless to say you have had & always will have our prayers.

ALDEN PARK MANOR
 APARTMENT B-106
 GERMANTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

45 - Eliot Place

West Newton, Mass

Sept. 15, 1934

Dear Robert

The overwhelming news in this morning's paper finds me here, and I may see you at Northfield, but I want to send you at once a word of deepest and most loving sympathy. Yet how can I say it? The blow leaves me stunned. I was so pleased with what I saw and learned at Brown and Northfield last February, and had such high hopes for Brown under Elliott's leadership. It must surely have been a diseased brain that planned and executed the cruel deed.

Neither Mary nor I had had the privilege of knowing Mrs. Speer and the children but most of all to them our

Hearts now go out in deep and tender sympathy. And to you and your dear wife, whom we do know and love, our hearts go out also. With all your joys and successes you have had much to learn from sorrows, and you will, we know, find the comfort and strength needed in facing this deep tragedy. May our Father grant it abundantly.

With our love

James + Mary K. McKeough

Princeton, N.J.

Sept. 15, 1934

Dear Robert,

Our deepest sympathies are with Mrs. Sheer and you in the sudden sorrow that has come to you. May the Heavenly Father sustain and comfort you.

Very sincerely yours,

Paul Weston

BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Sep 17/1904

My dear Robert,

We are following
you and all your loved ones
with our deepest love, our warm-
est sympathy, and most earnest
prayer during these trying
hours.

Affectionately yours

Mrs Mrs J. H. Sewell

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THE

MISSIONARY
RIDGE . . .

McCALLIE

FOR BOYS

SCHOOL

CHATTANOOGA
TENNESSEE

September 24, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City

Dear Dr. Speer:

Mrs. McCallie and I are praying daily that the Lord may sustain you and Mrs. Speer in this greatest tragedy that can possibly happen in your home. No, I will take that back, - a far greater tragedy could happen in the wilful disobedience and departure from the Lord of a son. You know that your boy is safe in God's keeping and while our hearts go out to you in sympathy in your great sorrow, we rejoice in the certainty of a future reunion with our loved ones in the presence of our dear Lord. May he speed that day when there shall be no more such awful deeds as are being transacted on earth today. May God richly bless you in this great grief that has come to you.

Yours sincerely,

J. P. McCallie
J. P. McCallie, Headmaster.

b

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Du Bois S. Morris
449 Park Avenue
New York City

Sept 20th 1934.

Dear Mr and Mrs Spear,

When Mr Lander yesterday, Mr Wm
Inquirer of a news of a tragic accident
to your son Everett. I am writing to
tell you of our deep sympathy and to
assure you of our prayers. I know Mr
Lander, who none is sure to comfort you, will
be the inflicting source of your sorrows
and grief now.

Truly dear Christian manhood is so
fully needed in this world today. Such
a loss is a great matter. A common
unmarked and unmarked things - but we can
trust in the all seeing and all wise Christ
and for this man your most important
work in Everett to us. To do pray
for you.

Please do not acknowledge this
now.

With sympathy and appreciation

Du Bois S. Morris

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

INCORPORATED IN TENNESSEE

POST OFFICE BOX NUMBER 330

EDWIN F. WILLIS,
TREASURER

NASHVILLE, TENN.

Sept. 17, 1934.

My dear Mr. Speer:

My heart's love goes out to
you and Mrs. Speer in the sorrow that
has come to you in the tragic death
of your son -

I want you to know that though
words fail me as I try to express
the feelings in my heart -

Yours friend
Edwin Willis

Isaiah 41:10.

G. DIRAN MINASSIAN, PRESIDENT
390 Wadsworth Avenue
Phone WASHINGTON Heights 7-7615

ARMINA MINASSIAN, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
390 Wadsworth Avenue
Phone WASHINGTON Heights 7-7615

New York City Christian Endeavor Union

(Organized May 24, 1888)

CITY HEADQUARTERS: 3 WEST 95TH STREET

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270 Seaman Avenue
Phone LOrraine 7-9052

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225 West 12th Street
Phone CHelsea 3-4351

ANNA SIEGRIST, RECORDING SECRETARY
339 East 10th Street
Phone ALgonquin 4-1167

WILLIAM FLINT, JR., TREASURER
556 West 160th Street
Phone BIlings 5-3310



1934 - 1935

September 13, 1934

Local Chairmen

LEMUEL H. KIRETCHJIAN, SOUTHERN MANHATTAN
486 West 165th Street
Phone WASHINGTON Heights 7-7932

WILLIAM GROLL, EASTERN MANHATTAN
121 Madison Avenue
Phone MUrray Hill 4-9206

HAROLD P. GRANT, WEST SIDE
140 75th Street, Brooklyn
Phone REctor 2-2600

BLANCHE DAVOLL, WASHINGTON HEIGHTS
600 West 146th Street
Phone AUdubon 3-2852

Dr. and Mrs. Robert B. Speer
24 Ganerney Park
New York, N.Y.

Dear Friends:

It was with a great shock that I read of the untimely end of the fruitful and brilliant service of your son.

Please know that our entire organization sympathizes with you in this hour of sorrow and travail. May God continue to bless you both and may He bless your son's family. May you all be allotted many more years of service.

Very respectfully yours,

149 East 23d Street.
New York, N.Y.

PRESIDENT

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The Northern Baptist Convention

THE BOARD OF MISSIONARY COOPERATION

A. M. McDonald, *Chairman*

W. H. Bowler, *Executive Secretary*

152 MADISON AVENUE

NEW YORK CITY

STEREOPTICON LECTURES
MOVING PICTURES, EXHIBITS

Harry S. Myers, *Secretary*

September 17, 1934

Dr. Robert W. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My Dear Friend:

I do not know what to say or how to say it but I do want you and Mrs Speer to know that since Saturday afternoon You have not been out of mind.

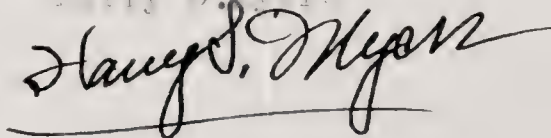
To me with such news as the paper gives the entire thing is unexplainable.

Our Father lives! He is able and we know how to depend on him for a crisis like this. He will help all of you and the Comfort promised is for us all.

May His richest blessing be on you and all your loved ones in this time of need and crisis!

Cordially your

Harry S. Myers



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September 16, 1934

Dear Mr. Speer.

My heart goes out to you
in affectionate friendship and deepest
sympathy. May God comfort
and sustain you all.

We are praying earnestly
for you - would there were more a
friend could do. Words seem
so futile in the face of life's great
overwhelments.

Ms. Muelken joins me
in sympathy for you & Ms. Speer.

as ever

Anto Muelken

THE MONTCLAIR NATIONAL BANK

MONTCLAIR, N.J.

HUGH R. MONRO
PRESIDENT

Sept 19/34

My dear Dr Spear -

Mrs Monro and I wish to add our all too feeble word of sympathy to you and Mrs Spear in this your hour of great trial. The only language which seems in any sense adequate is the language of inspiration; just as the only sufficient comfort must be found on the bosom of God Himself.

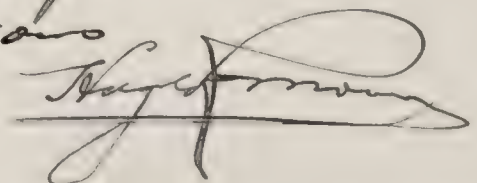
I noticed this morning in reading the 56 Psalm how David in a baffling hour fell back on the assurance: "This I know that God is for me." It brought to my own heart a new sense of the reality and magnitude of that grace which reveals One who is always for me.

Then how such hours bring home to our hearts the great truth of the indivisible body of Christ. Even our sorrows become the burden of the fellowship: "whether one member suffers all the members suffer."

The shadows deepen of this night of sin - but the noon is near.

In affectionate fellowship

Sincerely yours



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Memorial Presbyterian Church

S. A. Munneke, D. D., Minister

Manse: 204 North Tenth Street

Marysville, Kansas

Sept. 22, 1934.

Dr. Robert Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:

I can not help but write you just a word of condolance about the death of your son. I read in the papers that Dr. Elliot Speer had been shot and I wondered at that time if this Dr. Speer was any realtion of yours. I thought he might possibly be a brother. But in this week's Presbyterian Advance I read that he was your son.

All through the church and the nation you have the sympathy of millions of people. We who have sons of our own can enter into the spirit of sympathy, and know how a father must feel when his son is shot down as was your son. While I have never met this young man's mother, I assure you that I am thinking about her too .

You have not only the admiration of the entire Presbyterian church and millions outside of of our church, but we Presbyterians all love you and I could not feel worse about this matter if the thing had happened to a son of my brother.

Trusting that God's richest blessing and comfort may be yours in this sad day, I am,

Affebtionatley yours,

S. A. Munneke

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ERNEST TRICE THOMPSON, D.D.,
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UNION SEMINARY REVIEW

A PRESBYTERIAN QUARTERLY

VOLUME XLVI

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

September 23rd.
1934.

Dear Dr. Speer:

Our whole Seminary community was shocked by the news of your tragic loss and our deepest sympathies go out to each one of you in these trying days. We pray that the strength and the consolations of the gospel will be very precious now and the favour of His mercy especially near in this hour of great need.

In deepest sympathy,

I am, Faithfully yours,
J. Gray McAllister.

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First Presbyterian Church

Orange Street at Maple Avenue

Orange, California

ROBERT BURNS McAULAY, D. D. Pastor

September 19, 1934.

Robert E. Speer, D.D.,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:

Mrs. McAulay and I were shocked as we learned of the terrible sorrow that has come upon you. We want to assure you of our loving interest and prayerful sympathy.

We have followed you through the years and found increasing inspiration and help from your message and your own steadfastness as you have borne trial after trial.

While neither of us knew your son we felt an admiration and love for him because of what you have meant to us.

May the God of peace and comfort sustain you both.

Cordially,

Robert Burns McAulay

DR. JOHN M. MACINNIS
1112 NORTH GARFIELD AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA

Sept. 16 - 1934

Dear Dr. Spear:

Our hearts are overwhelmed by the news of the tragedy that has come to you and your loved ones.

We want you to know that you have our deepest sympathy and most earnest prayers that God may keep and comfort you in this awful hour.

Why should all this come to one of the truest men God has given us in our generation? For the moment we must rest in the confidence that "unto us it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake." He understands,

He was killed by lawless hands. The blood of His ~~heart~~^{heart} marks the way He permits you to walk in ^{the} winning of the day. With warmest love we continue to pray that He may keep you in perfect peace all the day.

Most cordially,
John M. Mac Innis

513
170 S.Marengo Ave.

Pasadena, Cal.

Oct. 2, 1934.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Speer,

New York.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer:

We have thought of you and prayed for you many times since reading of your bitter sorrow. To-day we have received the letter sent out by the Secretarial Staff on Sept. 20. We want to tell you how much we sympathize with you in this great loss, or at least "lost awhile." We pray that you have comfort and joy even in this great sadness, and a very deep realization of God's presence, comfort and grace and strength in order to bear this unexpected sorrow.

Mrs. Magill and I sail on the President Lincoln on Oct. 13, for the Philippines, returning to our beloved field of labor for twenty nine years.

This letter requires no acknowledgement at all.

With prayers and kindest regards for you from us both,

Very sincerely,

L. N. Magill

"Shang-Hai"

Fairlight Cove, near Hastings,
(Sussex) October 4, 1934.

My dear Dr. & Mrs. Speer.

The Board letter of Sept. 20 has come and I feel I must brush everything else aside and send a word of deepest sympathy. The devastating and bewildering news of your dearly and widely beloved son being taken away so suddenly in such tragic circumstances leaves me dumb with sorrow and dismay; but I know that the God of all comfort will be very near and real to you in this great sorrow. Job said he was "full of confusion" and wondered why the Almighty let such things happen: but we know that the God who comforts us is a Self-Sacrificing God. He sacrificed Himself for us. You have all lived in such close fellowship with that Great Comforter, the Lord Jesus Christ, 'a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief,' and have been helped by so many, that I can only lovingly and confidently commend you to Him who is perfect in power, wisdom and goodness and love.

My wife joins warmly in ~~all~~ these poor expressions of deep sympathy and true love for yourselves and all your family. As ever yours,
Lillian M. Dutoit

013

First Vice President and Secretary of Missionary Education
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1136 South Lewis Place
Tulsa

Second Vice President and Secretary of Stewardship
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Heavener

Secretary of Literature
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1932-1933

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922 West Oklahoma Street
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Historian
MRS. CHARLES R. HUME
Anadarko

El Reno, Okla.,
Oct. 9, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer:

It is my great honor, as my last official act for the Woman's Synodical of Oklahoma, to convey to you and Mrs. Speer the deep sympathy expressed for you in the tragic loss of your son, as we were assembled in our Forty-second annual meeting at Okmulgee last week.

A season of silent prayer followed by audible petitions to the Great Healer of broken hearts went up from the assembly, that you might have peace and comfort in your great sorrow.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Clyde Musgrove.

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First Presbyterian Church

HOMER GEORGE MCMILLEN, D. D., MINISTER

St. Clairsville, Ohio

THE MANSE
123 HIGH STREET
PHONE 281-J

Sep't-23-1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
N. Y. City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:-

Words are impotent to convey to you sir, the sadness of my heart in the loss of your excellent son. You and Mrs. Speer have my heartfelt sympathy in your loss which you will kindly convey to Mrs. Elliott Speer and the children. Our Presbytery of St. Clairsville and the Session and congregation here mourn with you. I had hoped that some day he would succeed you as Sec. of the Foreign Board.

With the highest regards, I am,

Yours in Christian sympathy,

Homer G. McMillen

“Mr. Mercer’s work was begun in 1904. His life experience and other Christian addresses have been given in many of our leading Protestant Churches, also in the leading Colleges and Universities of America, in over 3,000 High Schools, over 3,000 manufacturing plants, before Boards of Trade, Chambers of Commerce, in theatres, jails, Rescue Missions, Y. M. C. A.’s, Rotary, Kiwanis, and other clubs. Over 5,000,000 persons of all classes and creeds have heard him, over 1,000 Bishops, Ministers and leading laymen and laywomen endorse his work. He is doing a tremendous constructive work among the young people of our nation and every community needs his message and help.”

ENDORSERS

- Bishop Brent (deceased)
Buffalo, N. Y.
- Bishop C. P. Anderson (deceased)
Chicago, Ill.
- Bishop Wm. T. Manning
New York, N. Y.
- Bishop Ernest M. Stires
Long Island, N. Y.
- Bishop Fred’k B. Budlong
New Haven, Conn.
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- Bishop H. St. George Tucker
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- Bishop Thos. C. Darst
Wilmington, N. C.
- Bishop Frank A. Juhan
Jacksonville, Fla.
- Bishop John D. Wing
Winter Park, Fla.
- Bishop John T. Dallas
Concord, N. H.

(AND OTHERS)

- Dr. Wm. H. Owen
New York, N. Y.
- Dr. W. Russell Bowie
New York, N. Y.
- Dr. Roelif H. Brooks
New York, N. Y.
- Dr. S. Parkes Cadman
Brooklyn, N. Y.
- Dr. Robert E. Speer
New York, N. Y.
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Newton Center, Mass.
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And 1000 other outstanding Christian Leaders throughout the World.

614

THE
CHRISTIAN WORK
OF
E. C. MERCER
SALISBURY, CONN.

*A Vital Christian Service
Needed in Every Community
and
Supported Entirely by
Voluntary Contribution*

Sept 18th 1934

Dear Dr. and Mrs Speer: My family and myself send you our loving sympathy and are with you and behind you in the fellowship of prayer.

Faithfully
E. C. Mercer

Psalm 46:1
Deut 33:27.

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Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer,

I do not remember when I was moved so deeply as I was Saturday. I was on my way to an appointment in western Nebraska. The paper carried the report of your dear son Elliot's murder.

How glad we were in Persia when he came to his own in that new field of endeavor and service. How he is gone.

May He who knows all about it take your burdens away, and be near to the wife and children who are left behind.

Most sincerely
Maryon E. Moss

Owaha
September 18, 1904

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San Juan Capistrano, California
Sept 20 - '34.

Dear Robert,

I am so far away - I
am grieving to be close just that you
might know my grief.

In my library I have much
of you - This morning I've chosen out
yr - "The Master of the Heart" and we
have touched souls. You have been

a young man - always -
Challenging them! Now the

challenge is up to you. Robert.
The word of young folks - men and
women need a message of
great assurance. We older ones do -
we who have hearkened to you!

D Cuyler, Fallson - Smyth have spoken - but
we need something else - more.

Speak out yr heart, dear Robert.
We believe in God. We believe in you.

"With Cordial Good Wishes Always."

Sincerely -
Hugh M. Welch.

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Ross S. McCown

First Presbyterian Church

BEATRICE, NEBRASKA

THE MANSE, 315 NORTH FIFTH ST.

ROSS S. McCOWN, D.D., PASTOR

TELEPHONE 1084

1934
October 9, 1934.

Robert E. Speer, D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:

You do not remember me, but, of course, the whole Church knows and loves you. This little personal note is just to say that our hearts go out to you in these trying days. And while no formal action was taken, I am sure the men of Nebraska have the deepest sympathy for you in your sorrow.

I wanted to say to you how deeply we appreciate your sending Dr. MacKay. He greatly touched the hearts of the men of Nebraska. Also, we were so pleased to have him in such tender fashion pay tribute to you, personally. No greater tribute could be paid to any man than his words concerning you. Few times has any man come in and gripped the hearts of our men more than Dr. MacKay.

With your good self and Dr. MacKay heading up our Foreign mission work, we are perfectly confident that the wise and Christlike course will be followed.

This little note is not official at all, but I just wanted you to know how the men of Nebraska feel and, so, this little message. It requires no answer. Rest assured our hearts are with you.

Very cordially yours,

Ross S. McCown

at Nebr. Synod

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FRANK H. MANN
~~28~~²⁹ BROADWAY
NEW YORK CITY

Dear Mr Speer :

No words can explain
your great tragedy - nor can they
bring you solace - but may that great
and magnificent faith of which your
whole life has been an embodiment
comfort and sustain you and Mrs. Speer
in this dark hour - Manny joins me
in a most real sympathy -

Yours cordially

Frank H. Mann

Monday - Sept. 18.

The Manse

218 SYCAMORE STREET

DECATUR, GEORGIA November 10. 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:- I have just been reading again the address given by your son, Elliott, to his graduating class and I cannot resist the impulse to write you of my sorrow and sympathy at the thought of his death.

Years ago I had the pleasure of being with you at a dinner in the home of Dr. Walter Moore in Richmond and you were telling me then about this boy, - I have never forgotten that and have treasured the memory of it all thru the years. The last months have brought that conversation and the little stories you told me very vividly back to my mind. Sometime I seem almost able to put myself in your place, - I too have a son in the ministry.

Surely it is good to have a Christian faith, - good always but maybe we see more clearly in times of deep distress just how good it is. I was preaching last Sunday and thinking of you as an illustration of how a man can walk thru the deep waters and thru the fire itself and come out unharmed. You have been and you are a tower of strength to millions of Christian people, - and I know your faith and your joy are still yours.

May God greatly bless you thru all these days. May He give you patience and strength as you go about the details of daily service. Personally I find it hard to wait on God. Times like these when the wheels of God seem to stand still or actually to run backward are not easy times with me. I am tempted to cry out and argue with God. But quietly and deeply I am sure He knows best. There is no failure with Him. Out of all the aimlessness and defeat He will bring a new heaven and a new earth. Elliott served His purpose even as you do. I rejoice to know that we are all in His hand. May His peace possess you always.

Yours cordially,

A. M. Gandy

Central Iowa Fuel Company

1219 SOUTHERN SURETY BUILDING

PHONE 3-7183

DES MOINES, IOWA

October 22, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer
Sec. For. Brd. Miss. Pres. Church
New York, N. Y.

My dear friend, Dr. Speer:

I have been wanting to write you telling you I have been thinking of you and Mrs. Speer these last weeks and I want you both to know of my love and prayers, but I just did not know how to write.

My heart went out to you and Mrs. Speer when I read in the newspapers of the tragic death of your son. I had met him but not in a way for him to know me but I was interested in his great work.

I do want you and Mrs. Speer to know of my love.

Sincerely, your friend,

Fred C. Macmillan

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Dictated October 24, 1934.

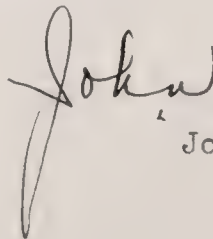
Dear Robert:

Your words have been of great comfort and courage to me during these days when I have had a slight bit of suffering compared with yours. For over forty years you have been bringing messages to me, and always of genuine inspiration and help. As the years go by your messages have become more vital and valuable. I can frankly say that I cannot think of the Kingdom of God in this world without you. It was more than gracious of you in the midst of your own heavy sorrow to write me, and I want you to know that I very deeply appreciate it.

Of course, this has been a hard knock, and a very unexpected one, but it is all in the program of life and therefore I have no kick coming. Why should I? I have had so much of the goodness of God shown to me during my lifetime that a little thing like this cannot change the balance of the account. Your own heart burden has brought us all nearer to the source of comfort and grace. It is a strange providence but after all, I find my own heart greatly encouraged in remembering that God is not only a God of life but a God of wisdom; therefore even in a tragedy like yours it is a comfort to remember that all things work together for good to those who love God - not to those who understand Him or can explain His ways but just love Him with a simple heart love.

I am resting very comfortably here in the Homeopathic Hospital of East Orange and have every assurance from my doctor that I will have a complete recovery from the fracture to my arm.

Gratefully and affectionately yours,



John McDowell.

To -

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Foreign Board,
Building.

JMcD:MEL.

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

WESTERN UNION

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
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NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

NY183 37 NL VIA MS=MADISON NJ SEP 15

DR AND MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

LAKEVILLE CONN=

WE ARE STUNNED AND HURT THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE THIS TRAGIC
SORROW IN IT THERE IS ONLY ONE HELPER HE IS WILLING AND
ABLE YOU HAVE LONG AND LOVINGLY KNOWN HIM HE WILL NOT FAIL
YOU NOW=

FRANK MASON NORTH.

405P.

1-15
D's
Evelyn Riley Nicholson



JOHN P. BREEN
MANAGER

DAYTON, OHIO

My dear Doctor and Mrs. Speer,
So many
times you are in my
thought, and I feel a de-
sire, as I do tonight, to
tell you how my heart
has ached for you. I
have hesitated all these
days to write for there
is nothing I can say
by way of comfort which
you do not know far
better than I know. There-
fore, I only say that
Bishop Nicholson and I

have you on our hearts;
we share your sorrow in
such measure as we may
and we thank God for the
way He has upheld you
in this crucial experience.
Your fortitude and
strength your faith and
hope have blessed lives
of multitudes - of your
friends as well as of those
whom you do not know.
There is a "power that
worketh" in you and
this sad world is by
so much the better. We
are grateful that you
are so upheld.

Very sincerely yours,
Evelyn Riley Nicholson
Mt. Vernon Iowa.

28 EDMONT AVENUE
SUMMIT, NEW JERSEY

Saturday,
Sept. 15, 1934.

Dear Dr. Speer:

In this evening's
Newark Evening News I have
read of the great sorrow
which you and your family
have sustained. I think of the
many, many times you have
written to others, including me,
in regard to loved ones we had
lost and of the comfort your
letters brought. May you

yourself have the comfort
now.

we think of you as as so
strong that you scarcely need
the support of human sympathy.
I wish that we might be of some
real service to you for all the
loving service you have so
richly poured out upon
others. Do be assured of our
deep love for you, and of
our desire to help you by
any of the means as no
other way is available just
now.

28 EDMONT AVENUE
SUMMIT, NEW JERSEY

May God himself minister
unto you and yours for in
the hour of death vain is
the help of man only God
himself can restore our
loved ones unto us. May He
keep you in His peace and
love through these days in
the earnest prayers of your
devoted friends,
Ralph and Agnes Keck.

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Sept. 15, 1934.

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love through these days in
the earnest prayers of your
devoted friends,

Ralph and Agnes Keckell.

516

WILLIAM MCM. NORTH
51 CUTLER ST.
MORRISTOWN, N. J.

Sept 18. 1931

Dear Rob:

I was much shocked to read in the papers of the death of Elliot. While I did not know him yet I have heard of his good work and how much he was liked by the students. This came to me directly from students themselves and

of course I was glad
to hear it.

You have our deepest
sympathy.

Sincerely
Maudie Kutz

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer. -

Gladys and I send you
our deepest warmest sympathy.
Both of you and Elliott's family
are much in our affectionate
thoughts and prayers. May
the tenderest ministries of
God's comfort in Christ be
with you all!

Sincerely your friends,

Eric North

Please do not burden yourself & answer.

September 18, 1934

My dear Mr. Speer:— 617

Sept. 19 1934.

I am only one of many who wish to share, however inadequately, the great sorrow which has come to you and Mrs. Speer. My own debt to you for spiritual guidance and insight is so great that the tragedy of which we have read seems like one which had come to my own family. May the unfading presence of Christ sustain you.

With deep sympathy
Arthur W. Nixon

ack. 4/24/16

My dear Mrs. Speer: -

May I add
just a word to the loving
expressions of sympathy
offered by your many friends.

At the executive meeting
of our missionary society
Mrs. McAfee read to us
a part of your lovely letter
so I am sure you need no
helpful words from me at

this sad time, but - I do
wish to assure you and
Dr. Spear of my perfect
understanding of what
you are carrying in your
hearts - an understanding
only possible to those who
have been greatly bereaved -
and to extend my deepest
sympathy to you both.

October eighth. Sincerely,
Lena B. Noel

15 ELM ROCK ROAD, BRONXVILLE, N.Y.

My dear Mrs. Spurr:

The older I become, the more I feel that there is no tragedy except a vanquished spirit. So I know there is no tragedy in your family. But my thoughts & sympathy have been with you these past two weeks in your great sorrow and loss.

Very affectionately

Anna F. Van Dusen

Sept. 30th, 1934

extra
with
act 15
S. 2. Mrs Daniel Callahan
Pawson.
October 4th

Mrs. Mrs. Speer

No words could express
the sympathy that your
friends here are feeling for you
and your Speer, and all your
family. We remember you daily
in our corporate and private prayers,
praying that God will give you
His strength and His peace --
be your comfort and stay.

With deep affection

Charlotte Given

CCM.

My dear Mrs Speer,

You are having
numberless letters I know,
but I do just want to
tell you that we are
grieving with you too, in
this great tragedy.

Charlotte especially
wants to send her

love to your girls. She
knows, too, what it is to
lose a father suddenly,
with deepest sympathy
Charlotte B. Norton

Salisbury
October first

~~copy~~

Women's University Club
106 East Fifty-Second Street
New York

September 21, 1934

Dear Mrs. Speer.

This is just to let you know that I have been thinking of you and wishing there were something to do to help. You have, I fully realize, great resources for meeting the sorrow which has so inexplicably come to your family. However, if there should be anything that I could do - in a "practical" way -

Please let me know, for I
am not working at present.
Otherwise, please do not try
to send any reply. I would
not read one single thing
to your burden.

With my deepest sympathy
Believe me

Sincerely yours,

Isabel Norton

Robert Hastings Nichols

The Synod of New York

of the

Presbyterian Church

in the

United States of America

STATED CLERK

REV. ROBERT HASTINGS NICHOLS, PH. D.
AUBURN, N. Y.

TREASURER

ARTHUR J. ADAMS
172 S. HOOPES AVE., AUBURN, N. Y.

MODERATOR

REV. GEORGE D. MILLER, D. D.
WARSAW, N. Y.

VICE-MODERATOR

REV. RAYMOND KISTLER, D. D.
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

OFFICE OF THE STATED CLERK
10 NELSON ST., AUBURN, N. Y.

October 20, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. Speer:

The Synod of New York, on October 17, 1934, on the recommendation of its Committee on Foreign Missions, voted unanimously and very earnestly that the following letter should be sent to you:

Dear Dr. Speer:

The members of the Synod of New York, in session in Buffalo, join with the hundreds of others who share in your deep sorrow for the death of your son Elliott. So many times among the delegates his name and yours have been mentioned, and always there is the feeling of the personal loss that has come to us all in the going of such a rare comrade in the cause of Christ as was your son.

To you and the members of the family we extend our deepest sympathy, assuring you that we all will continue to have you in our thoughts and prayers, as you carry on your lives in the victorious spirit of the Christ.

Please allow me, in transmitting this action of the Synod, to express my own heartfelt sympathy with you.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Hastings Nichols

RHN:WHN

078

FRANK ALEXANDER NELSON
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

My dear doctor Speer:

Our paper today report the terrible tragedy at Northford in which the life of Reverend Elliott Speer was taken. I am told he is your son. If this is true, will you not permit me to express the deep distress that Mrs Nelson and I feel that this shocking deed should, in cutting down this brilliant young minister, bring this great sorrow and distress to you.

No rejoice, however, to believe that your great faith which has been such an inspiration to the thousands you have influenced will bear you through waters even as deep as these.

Most sincerely

Isaiah A. Nelson

Sept 17th '34

178

REV. JAMES H. NICOL
630 SEVENTH STREET S. E.
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Sept 16, 1934

Dear Friends.

The evening paper last night brought the news of Elliott's death, and we hoped against hope that there might have been some mistake. It seemed so unbelievable. But Mrs Nicol and I wish to assure you both of our deep sympathy, and our great desire to be of assistance in any way that we can. We know, however, that at such a time friends can do so little beyond expressing their love and sympathy.

All that we have of faith is needed when such a thing comes, but it is enough to know that our times and our loved ones are in His hand.

The Pedersen and we were together when we read of the sad event and I sent out a wire to Northfield.

With every assurance of our deepest sympathy to all the family,

Yours friends

JH + Rebecca Nicol

Ans
4/24

Madison, New Hampshire
September 18, 1934

Dear Friends:

Our hearts go out
to you in your trouble -
so grievous and so
inexplicable. It was
only a few days ago,
in Vermont, that I
had a word with that
fine, tall boy, and
was casting about
after the wedding for
a chat with him. I
have a son of about
the same age; I know

low, with the passage
of time, interests and
hopes concentrate on the
maturing man, who
naturally and subconsciously
continues, far more than
he knows, the deeper
impulses of our own
parental lives.

Young as he was, your
son had already made
himself felt in the
world; he leaves it
with a full flood
of love and blessing;
but the energy of his
spirit will surely be
continued in the
wise providence of
the universe.

Ever yours

Forest Hocking

312. W. Ala. Ave
Houston, Texas.

Quesada
P. 25

My dear Rob and Emma -

I want you to know
I am thinking of you dur-
ing these sorrowful days.

My deepest sympathy
goes out to you, and to

Elliot's little family, in
your tragic loss.

With affection and love

your cousin

Margaret M. Luntz North

September 20th 1934.

146 Franklin Street

Stamford Conn
Sept. 15th 1924

Ans
156

Rev. Robert Elliott Spear

My dear Sir,

Allow me to offer
my sympathy for you, in the
loss of your son. Kindly
pardon me for asking if you
have a good photograph of
Dr Elliott Spear, and if so, will
you allow me to paint a Portrait
from it. I have painted many
well known people from photographs
and have letters stating that they
have been pleased with my work.
I think it would be a nice
tribute to him to have a portrait

and many others I could name.

Kindly pardon me for writing in regard
to the portrait in that letter of your father,
Trusting to have the pleasure of hearing
from you and wishing you good health,

I am,

Very truly yours

Clarence R. Nelson.

P. S.

This photograph, I took from the paper
would make a fine portrait. If interested,
send me the photograph you think is the
best likeness.

Young in the school.

I paint the portrait life size, and
what ever the photograph calls for.
At all we Artists are having a hard
time. I will be pleased to paint the
Portrait subject to your approval,
and will also charge a low price
for the picture.

I will mention some of the people
I have painted.

Governor Smith,

Admiral H. A. Moffett during his
life time.

James K. Hackett and mother,
Captain Lewis H. Butler U. S. Army.
Mayor George H. Rigby Ormond Fla.
Three of the Mayors of Tonkas N. Y.

St. at 4 P. M. on schedule, bound for Havana.

(Other picture on Page 1)

Turn to page 66 for complete story of the Morro Castle fire.

Conboy Scans Rusted Boats On N. J. Beach

By ROBERT CONWAY.

(Staff Correspondent of The News.)

Asbury Park, N. J., Sept. 15.—

Informed by his assistants of the rusted condition of several airtight tanks on the Morro Castle's lifeboats, United States Attorney Martin Conboy arrived here today to make a personal inspection of the



Dr. Elliott Speer

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHARLES HADDON NABERS, D. D., MINISTER
RESIDENCE: 213 CLEVELAND ST.

THOMAS WYLIE SLOAN, D. D., LL. D., PASTOR EMERITUS
RESIDENCE: 303 CRESCENT AVE.

GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

October 12th, 1934,

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
154 Fifth Avenue
New York City,

Dear Dr. Speer:-

Just a word to say that I deeply sympathise with you in the terrible sorrow which came in the death of your son. Our hearts go out to you, and our prayer is that the God Whose comfort you have brought to multitudes may be your sufficient stay in these hours of sorrow.

Cordially yours,

Charles Haddon Nabers

ack. Oct 17.

THE PLAZA
NEW YORK

My dear Mrs Green -
Words fail
me to even begin to ex-
press my deep & sincere
sympathy for you & Dr
Green in this terrible
moment. I feel the
impulse to see you a
little of a delightful man.

at Mr. Green's house - where his wife
^{was} with her Mother & Father - in fact in
that attractive society - I enjoyed
ed. the intimate conversation &
I shall never forget the charm of
your wonderful son. He was so
fine, so in earnest. & so full of
the joy of his work. - I will
never be questioned why this am-
ful thing could happen to him?

My heart needs for you & your good
husband. Mr. Kimberly joins me
in a prayer that our Heavenly
Father shall sustain you in
this dire need of courage -

With love I am

Your sincere friend

Harriet B. Kimberly -

Sept 24 / 37

my having a day a year
ago last Spring. When that
splendid son of yours came
to the Hotel at Northfield
in his lute car to take
me to see the improvements
at Mt. Mansfield. We had
such a lovely time talking
over the whole prospect
last Fall for the University
& College. and finally stopped

5V

FRANK MASON NORTH
16 MADISON AVENUE
MADISON, NEW JERSEY

Sept 17. 1934

My dear Friend:

It grieves me that you should be so hurt! You are yourself so strong and faithful and have so kept others that there seems something wrong that are inceptible and unimaginable sorrow should have come to you.

But it has come and even this has not taken you unaware. For you know in whom you have believed and it is able!

Words of common sympathy seem out of place and I am not venturing to use them.

It will, at least, not add to your burden to be assured that among the multitude who would so gladly ease it if it were possible I am one.

If there were some one little thing I could do, I would be so glad.

To Mrs. Speer and yourself Mrs. North and I individually and together send our warmest sympathy.

Faithfully Yours

Frank Maxmuth

512

c/o Church of Scotland
Foreign Mission Office
121 George Street
Edinburgh 2
20th September 1934

Dear Dr Speer,

I am grieved indeed to hear of the death of your son in such tragic circumstances. You know that men and women in many lands are with you in your sorrow and remember you in their prayers, and that many give thanks to God for him who is no longer with you on earth.

My deepest sympathy with you and
yours.

Yours sincerely

A. R. Noomand

514
教 督 基 華 中 城 都
TORONTO CHINESE CHURCH

師 牧 林 威 那
REV. W. D. NOYES D. D.

PHONE ELGIN 7056
56 ELM STREET
TORONTO 2, ONTARIO,

September 17th 1934

Dear Dr. Speer:-

As I was glancing through
the New York Times this morning I came across
the account of your sons death under
most distressing circumstances.

We do not understand why such
things occur a man doing good work
for the world especially along the lines
of religious service.

You and the other members of your
family are in our thoughts and we wish
to extend to you our sincere sympathy.

Yours very sincerely

W. D. Noyes.

118

Alexander R. Nicol
Summit, New Jersey

Sep 17 '34

Dear Dr. Speer:

We have been reading about the death of your son. Our hearts go out to you and Mrs. Speer in your great sorrow, also to your son's wife and dear children.

We ourselves have a saintly daughter in the prime of life with a wonderful husband (a Doctor and elder in the Church) and two young boys, whose sweet life is rapidly drawing to a close with cancer of the liver. Our own hearts are broken so we can doubly sympathize with you. We are happy, however, to know our daughter is implicitly trusting in her dear Saviour and will soon be with Him. What a joy and comfort you also must have to know your son has been called to render an even greater service in Glory.

Please do not attempt to acknowledge this note. I simply wish to let you know that we, among millions of others, feel for you and yours the deepest sympathy at this time,

Always yours,

A. R. Nicol

210

THE LAFAYETTE REFORMED CHURCH

JERSEY CITY, N. J.

REV. HARRY W. NOBLE, D. D.

278 PACIFIC AVENUE

Tel. Delaware 3-1992



September 17, 1934.

Dear Dr. Spur:

My thoughts have been
much with you these difficult days.
May this help a bit.

Sincerely yours,

Harry W. Noble.

To Dr. Robert E. Spur,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York,
N. Y.